

Paw Prints

Special Interest Articles:

- Principal's
Editorial
- Principal's
Message

Individual Highlights:

Scratch Auditions	2
Care Packages	3
STAR Testing	4
Boys Tennis	6
AVID Poems	7
Spring Football	7
Calendar	8

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

792; Yes, 792: Will We Do It Again?!

by Dr. Craig Rocha, Principal/CEO

As is the spring ritual, assessment of California students on standardized tests commenced this term on March 16th and 17th (for 10th Grade California High School Exit Examinations, or "CAHSEE") and will continue through April 19th through May 3rd (the customary California Standards Tests which Steele Canyon 9th, 10th, and 11th graders are required to take). All assessments will rank our school and its students based upon the totality of student performance! Needless to say, this again is a crucial time for all Steele Canyon stakeholders, uplifting our school as an independent charter operation!

To be sure, there is a great deal at stake for all of us during the spring testing window. Students across the state are categorized according to how they perform on these tests, with such scores often influencing the courses in which students are placed as well as, in some cases, the post-high-school options available to students. In addition, California schools themselves are ranked statewide on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the ultimate high in academic achievement and 1 being the extreme low point in academic performance). It goes without saying, therefore, that it is in everyone's best interest to ensure that each Steele Canyon student maximizes his/her scores on these important exams.

The theme of this year's testing is **792; Yes, 792: Will We Do It Again?!** This number relates to our established target for standardized testing—a 20 point increase over last year's Academic Performance Index (API) outcome of 772. (Last spring's API score of 772 represented the second consecutive 20-point gain in this school's history! Thank you, thank you!)

Four crucial questions for parents at this time are the following:

1. "What tests will my son and/or daughter be taking, and when?"
2. "What's at stake with these exams?"
3. "What incentives to kids will we offer for them to do their very best?"
4. "What are some practical strategies which I can encourage at home to help my son and/or daughter excel on this year's examinations?"

Our Assistant Principal Jeff Kover will be communicating exact details of the testing dates and times; look on our website and in this edition of *Paw Prints* for that information. Below, I am outlining some information for you about our testing activities so as to help incite a sense of urgency for the standardized testing that will take place during April and May!

1. WHAT TESTS WILL MY SON OR DAUGHTER BE TAKING, AND WHEN?



"...there is a great deal at stake for all of us..."

1. California Standards Tests (CST's)

This crucial battery of tests involves several subject-area exams for students in grades 9 through 11. The CST's criterion-referenced tests (i.e., providing performance levels of student achievement based on academic standards) will be administered from April 19th through May 3rd. CST exams will assess standards mastery in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Sciences, and Social Sciences according to courses in which students are enrolled. Students were given an individualized "Why Try?" pamphlet in their Cougar Connections classes before Spring Break. In this pamphlet, your student received a personalized goal-setting chart with the name of the subject test that he/she will be taking this year.

Continued on page 5 . . .

Principal's Message for April 2010

As we watch the school year continue to evolve, we have some important challenges just ahead of us. First and foremost of these is the standardized testing in which our students will be engaged shortly after we return from Spring Recess to start Quarter 4 of the current school year. The testing schedule for California Standards Tests to occur in April and May appear elsewhere in this edition of *Paw Prints*.

I ask each of you to read carefully the detailed article entitled, "792; Yes 792: Will We Do It Again?!"—located in this *Paw Prints*. Please work to ensure that your Steele Canyon 9th, 10th, 11th grader comes to school prepared to focus and take these standardized tests seriously.

Now, as customary in these messages, allow me to acknowledge some recent accomplishments on the part of Steele Canyon school and community members.

•Congratulations to Sophomore **Haley Moss** who, in early February, competed in a

speech contest sponsored by the American Association of University Women. Her speech on African American Women breaking through barriers placed FIRST and qualified her for the state competition. On February 18th, Haley delivered her speech to the local AAUW club and was honored with a \$200.00 cash prize! Haley's leadership on our campus and in the community serves as an example of the Steele Canyon values to all Cougars!

•Congratulations to the seven members of our first ever Science Olympiad Team. In mid-February, they competed against 65 other San Diego Teams from 24 schools (ours being the only school from East County). Junior **Dustin Hadley** placed 20th in Fossils; he and Junior **Chris Sirkis** received 14th in Dynamic Planet. Seniors **Kyle Hatashita** and **Carlo**

Duya placed 15th in Disease Detectives, while medaling in the top ten were Juniors **Brianna Coston** and **Chris Sirkis** with 7th in Astronomy!

•Four Sophomores from Steele Canyon have been selected from among 300 young women in the San Diego area to receive the "Spirit of Leadership Award" presented by the Jenna Druck Foundation. Selection criteria include demonstrated positive leadership in their community, their academic community, and their commitment to family and personal values. The award recipients have been invited to participate in the 13th Annual Spirit of Leadership Conference held at the end of March. The four Cougars who received this honor are **Caitlin Clark**, **Michelle Krug**, **Alexis Napier**, and **Jessica Thompson**.

•Sports Highlights: Congratulations to the Girls' Water Polo team for winning the Grossmont Hills League

Championship.....Congratulations to Senior **Irene Esquibel** for becoming Steele Canyon's 1st two-time State Wrestling Medalist with her 7th place finish at the State Meet in late January.

•Congratulations to the Boys' Wrestling "Men of Steele" who won their 3rd consecutive league title.

•Congratulations to the Girls' Varsity Soccer team for winning their 1st League championship title

•Congratulations to the Girls' Basketball team for making it into the CIF, Division II, Quarterfinals.

•In case you missed the newspaper! The *Union-Tribune* carried a terrific article in its February 25th edition highlighting the life and wrestling career of Senior **Todd Graff**. Similarly honored by the *Union-Tribune* was Senior **Christie Hendel**, whose soccer expertise was highlighted in the newspaper's High School Athletes of the Month section in the March 4th edition.

The Cougar beat goes on!

SC wants you to audition for mascot!

Details and audition forms in K117 or ASB

Auditions held after Spring Break



Cougar Stars are nominated by Steele Canyon staff for such things as hard work and effort put forth in the pursuit of good grades, service or kindness to others, leadership on campus, or for displays of honor while facing difficult choices/circumstances. We want to reward those students who exemplify our motto, "Take Care of Yourself, Take of Each Other, Take Care of This Place." Recipients get invited to a pizza lunch and get presented with a certificate and cougar star.

Congratulations Quarter 3 Cougars Stars!

Abbott, Zach	Mitchell, Kyzaya
Allen, Devon	Moore, Michael
Andersen, Lise	Morales, Lani
Archer, Shane	Moreno, Allan
Barkley, Paul	Napier, Alexis
Beam, Brittney	Neville, Paige
Broderick, William	Nolasco, Fernando
Butler, Sara	Nowak, Emma
Carrillo, Erik	O'hea, Megan
Chihwaro, Julie	Powell, Brittney
Cisneros, Gilbert	Sirkis, Christopher
Durham, Michael	Smith, Chase
Gorrell, Serena	Spotts, Kelsey
Gast, Destiny	Stephen, Alexis
Glidewell, Jessica	Stuart, Jamar
Gonzales, Jasmine	Swan, Cody
Gonzalez, Alexandra	Troast, Tammi
Gonzalez, Barbara	Tucker, Alexis
Henderson, Caleb	Vasquez, Adriana
Kerlin, Alina	Watson, Brandon
Kramer, Grace	White, Reggie
Lee, Lauren	Williamson, Krista
Marguet, Priscilla	Wilson, Kyle
Mishler, Taylor	Wright, Sheree

All Students Love Getting a Care Package Before Testing

Star  Testing

STAR testing for the 9th, 10th and 11th grades will be from April 19-30th. Why not surprise your student by purchasing a CARE PACKAGE for them? If your student is a Senior, this is the perfect chance to say how proud you are of all their accomplishments over the past 4 years!

We will do all the work for you by shopping and assembling a large assortment of healthy snacks and

deliver them to your student's class the second week of testing - April 26th.

IT IS EASY!

Just print and complete the flyer posted on SCHS PTO's Website at: www.steelecanyonpto.net

Add an inspiring or heartfelt message for your student that will accompany the snacks, and return the flyer with \$10 to:

Kathy Ybarrondo
1614 Corte De Las Piedras
El Cajon, CA 92019.

Care Package profits will be used to support this year's Senior Class Grad Nite @ Disneyland sponsored by the SCHS PTO.

Guys and Dolls Rocked the Theatre

SC Players Drama
Booster Club is looking
for volunteers...

Hats off to Steele Canyon Band, Show Choir, Adv. Dance, Adv. Theatre, and Tech. Thanks to the collaboration of Dena Roncone, Ms. Gerner, Ms. Luck, and Ms. Courtney. They put on a "sensational musical". Thank you also to all the behind-the-scene worker bees". All of you actors,

actresses, and dancers made your parents proud!

The end of the year will be here before you know it and the Steele Canyon Players Drama Booster Club is looking for new parents who would like to get involved. We have board and chair positions to fill for next year. If you

would like to know more contact Jamie Luke by email at: jamielukecentury21@yahoo.com.

We love new talent!

Parents, please don't forget to come to Team Survivor on April 17th and support our booster clubs!



9th Grade Success

Michael Korda wrote: "To succeed, we must first believe that we can."

In order for the 9th grade to succeed, some of your students have to attend summer school and complete the task they started this year.

Important: Summer School is being offered for **three weeks only**, June 7 through June 25. All 9th grade students who failed classes need to be enrolled and **must attend**. Please contact your

guidance team, Mrs. Goodloe or Mrs. Jaggard, to ensure your students placement.

We will be meeting with each of your students when we return from Spring break. We will be going over their course selection sheets, and making sure that they have chosen wisely. This will be the last chance to make changes on electives as well.

Final check, get ready for 10th grade.

Steele Canyon High School 2010 STAR Testing Schedule

Term 2	Date	4/12/2010	4/13/2010	4/14/2010	4/15/2010	4/16/2010	
Day of Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
AP Students Only - Test Corresponding AP Subject	Math 1	ELA 2 Math 2	Pullout Test	Soc Sci 1 & 2 Sci 1 & 2	Makeup/Sort		
			Makeup/Sort				
Term 1	"FLIP WEEK"		Regular Day				85% Curriculum Day
Date	4/19/2010	4/20/2010	4/21/2010	4/22/2010	4/23/2010	4/26/2010	
Day of Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	
Test	Students go to Term 1 Math or Eng	Math 1 ELA 1	Math 2 ELA 2	Students go to Term 1 Sci or Soc Sci	NCLB Sci 10th Soc Sci & Sci Review	Sci 1 & 2 Soc Sci 1 & 2	
				Makeup/Sort			
Term 2	Regular Day						
Date	4/27/2010	4/28/2010	4/29/2010	4/30/2010	5/3/2010		
Day of Week	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday		
Test	ELA 1 Math 1	ELA 2 Math 2	Makeup/Sort	NCLB Sci 10th Soc Sci & Sci Review	Sci 1 & 2 Soc Sci 1 & 2		
	5/4/2010 Tuesday	5/5/2010 Wednesday	5/6/2010 Thursday	5/7/2010 Friday			
	Makeup	Makeup	Makeup/ Packup	Packup for Return to District			



El Cajon Ford Supports Steele Canyon!

We're excited to partner with Steele Canyon High School and the new "DRIVE ONE 4 UR SCHOOL" program! It's a fun, engaging way to help you raise money for sports and extracurricular activities. For every valid test-drive completed by a licensed adult (18 years or older), Ford Motor Company will donate \$20 to your school, up to \$6000! (One donation per household.) Come out to Steele Canyon's parking lot, starting at 10:00 a.m., on April 17th during Team Survivor and take a test drive to raise money for your sport team or club.

Paul Dyke
General Sales Manager

www.elcajonford.com

Principal's Editorial

...Continued from page 1

We will NOT need to adjust our school day dramatically to accommodate the administering of these important examinations. The only adjustments will be on Wednesday, April 14th, and Wednesday, April 21st, when classes start at 7:30 a.m. on those two Wednesdays. Our testing coordinator, Mr. Kover, has communicated about testing schedules in this edition of *Paw Prints*.

Other exams which some Steele Canyon students take during the spring include the SABE/2, which tests Spanish-speaking students in their native language living in the United States less than six months and new to California; and the May Advanced Placement (AP) examinations for students enrolled in any of

our Advanced Placement courses. Specific dates for these May exams will be communicated in a timely manner by Assistant Principal Al Love to the parents of those students involved.

For detailed information about any of these examinations, parents can access the California Department of Education's website at the following address:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/>

2. WHAT'S AT STAKE?

As mentioned earlier in this article, students and schools across the state are inevitably categorized by how they perform on the

CST's and CAHSEE. It goes without saying that it is in the best interest of each student to do well on these examinations.

Parents and students are urged to remember the following: graduating from a high school that is highly ranked on the API opens many doors in life (including collegiate doors) and brings a degree of prestige that can never be denied!!

3. "WHAT INCENTIVES TO WE OFFER FOR THEM TO VERY BEST?"

In order to help instill the importance of these upcoming standardized tests in our students, our schools' Big Picture Team, in conjunction

with Cougar Council, has again recommended a series of incentives to help guide students toward full-focus on these examinations. These incentives, still being finalized at the time of this writing, include elements of the following:

- a) A school-wide incentive of an extra minimum day next year if certain school-wide targets are met. (Teachers have explained these targets as well as helped students develop personal improvement goals through Cougar Connections classes.)
- b) A personal incentive for each student if individually earned

Continued on page 6 . . .

Principal's Editorial

...Continued from page 5

- c) scores raise a student one level upward on the CST scale (e.g., from 'Basic' to "Proficient").

Again, more details about these incentives will be forthcoming.

4. "WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL STRATEGIES WHICH I CAN ENCOURAGE AT HOME TO HELP MY SON AND/OR DAUGHTER EXCEL ON THIS YEAR'S EXAMS?"

◆ Urge your Steele Canyon student to take these tests seriously! As the number of state tests has increased, it has become traditional for students to lose focus and to become bored with these tests, which many students perceive as having little impact on them.

◆ Absences have hurt Steele Canyon in the past. It is imperative that students be here and on time during the testing window. It is also crucial that students are rested and are not out late during evenings before these important exams.

◆ Of course, the ultimate preparation for these exams involves students focusing on schoolwork and homework—now. Teachers are aware that these standardized tests are forthcoming and have been crafting lessons which deal with the academic standards to be tested. CST released questions can be used to familiarize you and your student

with the type of questions that will be on the tests at the following website address:

<<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05/tg.asp>>.

◆ Panic during test time is a "no-no" for Cougars. Panic can cause a student to misinterpret or not follow testing directions and can perpetuate the process of self-doubt. We want every student to approach each test with self-confidence, and to not get sidetracked by fear or worry if certain problems are difficult. The secret to success lies not in being able to answer all problems right away; the secret lies in a strategic plan to answer those questions that are readily known and then to problem-solve those that are difficult.

◆ For each of the tests, encourage students to budget their time. Ideally, students want to go through the test two times: a first pass at what they can do easily, and then a second go-around to work through tough questions. Have students attempt all items on the first pass but monitor their time so that the tougher questions can be returned to later.

◆ Since water plays a crucial role in brain function, you might consider stocking your student's backpack with some fresh bottled water on testing days. Students must avoid excessive sugar in-take, which makes

concentration difficult.

◆ Assist your student to understand that he/she is looking for the *best* answer. Oftentimes, more than one answer can be considered "correct," so the job for students is to select the best, most complete answer.

IMPORTANT!

Packets of review/study materials covering many of the standards to be tested on the CST's will be distributed and reviewed with students by subject area teachers before testing occurs. If you see these packets at home, we urge you to have your student review these materials before testing begins.

In addition, on Friday, April 16, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will attend a motivational assembly for **792, Yes, 792: Will We Do It Again?!** during a special Cougar Connections class designed to help develop a sense of urgency in our students!

It is time for all of us—students, parents, staff members, and community supporters—to "stand and deliver" so that the larger community continues to know that our charter school is centered on student learning results!

792, Yes, 792: Will We Do It Again?!

Boys Tennis

Both varsity and junior varsity are off to a perfect start with a 4-0 record. The varsity is striving to beat last year's record of 20-1; the only loss being the CIF team finals.

This year, three outstanding freshmen have made the varsity team. Singles number one standout is Adam Ferguson. Austen Barraclough and Chris Kolegraff are strong doubles partners, while also helping on the singles side.

The daily workout routine is not enough for some of our members, as both Corey Bosvay and Taylor

Robinson are running distance events in track and field for Coach Connelly. Demetrus Flowers and Chris Nichols are also participating in volleyball, as well as tennis each day. We wish these athletes great success and a lot of strength as they pursue two sports in the same season.

Please come out and watch the exciting tennis matches usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays as your Cougar team tries for its fourth league title in a row.

Coach Jerry Segawa

SAT Prep Weekend Seminar

Location: Steele Canyon High School
 Dates: 5/22/10 – 5/23/10
 Times: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Saturday
 8:00 am - 2:30 pm Sunday
 Cost: \$225
 Register with: www.schcougars.net (to pay by credit or debit) click 'Web Store,' 'SAT Prep,' then 'SAT Prep Weekend Seminar'

-or-

Mary Bullock, Room F205 (by check, money order, or cash)

Deadline: Registration must be complete by Friday, 5/14

**“We are AVID Students”
by Adriana Wasquez**

Those who don't try hard will not succeed.
They think they will get by without planting a seed.
They think they will grow tall,
With having no help at all.
They need to be watered to allow the roots to grow.

THE PLAN...

They start to grow but they get tired and want to stop.
They are making their leaves turn brown,
Almost cracking and ready to fall down,
But then the water allows them to grow and better itself.
For the plant learns how to grow.

THE GUIDANCE...

But we have gone through the growing process
We have been watered,
We have learned from our mistakes,
We have grown into small trees.
We are planning our futures from the proper guidance.
We know where we should be and we grow.

PROSPERING...

We don't just pass by and barely make it.
We rise above what we think we are able to achieve.
We learn what we need to know to keep growing and blossoming.
We are Amazing Vibrant In-Dividuals.
But we are not the only ones who can be amazing...
Yeah. That is our story. We are ready for...

OUR FUTURES.

**“We Are AVID Students”
by: Diana Valle**

Those who don't know, can't talk
They think AVID is just boring Cornell notes
24/7

They think AVID is too much unnecessary
work

They are underachievers
It's true, AVID requires Cornell-note taking in
order to pass

But we can be fun
From swimming in February San Franciscan
weather to shaving cream fights
From late night prank calls to singing through a
long bus ride

We know when's study time and when's play
time

It's true, our expectations are high
And maintaining them can be difficult
And any immature temptation can put us out of
line

No other student understand
We are role models

We are leaders
That may be hard to live up to

But we are in it together
Because most of all, we are family

We study together
We pull pranks together

We take responsibility together
It's never one person's fault

No one is ever left behind
We hold each other's hand through hardships

We provide a shoulder to cry on
We welcome each other into our arms

We make each other laugh when we need a
laugh

Yeah. That is what AVID students are

Spring Football

I am excited to announce that Spring Football is coming soon! The 2010 football season will begin this May with Spring Football Practices. We have a lunch meeting Thursday, April 29th in the gym and start practices on Monday, May 17th after school. Spring Football is two weeks of practices (no gear) and finishes with the annual Navy-Cardinal Game (a fun, flag football game) on Friday, May 28th.

We are looking for a few good people to help with videotaping, video editing, website work, and stats. If you are interested in being a "football techie" and a huge part of the football program, please come and see Coach Boehmke, room D202. (Girls are welcome and encouraged!)

Parents and friends, we are looking for sponsors for the 2010 season. If you own a business or know someone who does, please consider supporting our program and becoming a sponsor. Contact Ron Boehmke at 619-660-3624.

We believe 2010 can be a very successful and special season of Cougar Football; we hope you will be part of it! The players and coaches encourage everyone to come out and support us on Friday nights!

Go Cougars!

Coach Boehmke

Spring Fling

Please join us in welcoming the new incoming Freshman and Parents on April 15th.

Rah, Rah, Cougars!

Steele Canyon High School

12440 Campo Road
Spring Valley, CA 91978

PHONE:
(619) 660-3500

EDITOR:
Carl Robinson

E-MAIL:
csrobinson117@cox.net

VOLUNTEERS:
Gabi Starr, Natascha Starr, Diane
Kramer, Cindy Weston, Kathy
Ybarrondo, Mona McClure, Tricia
Bosvay, Michelle Nichols, Eileen
Proctor, Carolyn Gains

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.steelecanyonpto.net

Paw Prints Calendar

- April 12th STAR Testing Begins
- April 15th Spring Fling
- April 17th Team Survivor
- April 23rd Care Package Orders Due
- April 30th Quarter 4 Progress Reports
- May 3rd – 14th AP Testing

PAW PRINTS IS GOING GREEN!

Sign up to receive Paw Prints notifications via email at:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8ZWG6XJ>



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Spring Valley, CA 91978

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