

Principal's Message

By Gary Schwartzwald

This will be my last Paw Prints article. I can truly say that I have enjoyed my year at Steele Canyon, met some wonderful people, and learned quite a bit. It is unfortunate to me that my time here is only one year, but I am glad for the good times I have had and I am better for having been here.

Staff, students, and parents of Steele Canyon display a tremendous sense of school pride that drives much of what happens on campus. I have met or re-connected with many staff members, and Steele Canyon has some of the finest teachers and staff to be found anywhere. Your students have been a joy to work with. As a whole, they are polite, bright, hardworking, kind, and fun. I believe the greatest strength at Steele Canyon is our parents. You have not only done an outstanding job raising your children, but the support you give the Steele Canyon staff, facilities, and programs is truly amazing. Thank you for making Steele Canyon a better place.

For those of you who have welcomed me and allowed me to help you achieve your goals, I thank you for that opportunity and I hope our paths will cross again. Continue to take care of yourselves and each other. Good luck to you in all you do.

Governing Board News

By Jim Rhoades

The Interim Governing Board for Steele Canyon High School has been busy working toward a smooth transition to charter status beginning July 1. Having hired Dr. Craig Rocha for the position of principal, the board now turns its attention to oversight of a wide variety of conditions that must be met for Steele Canyon to begin operation as a charter school.

A big thank you goes out to Board Secretary Teresa Greenhalgh for her work in coordinating with the Grossmont Union High School District, San Diego County Office of Education, and other agencies to complete applicable paperwork for our charter conversion. Additional tasks to be completed include, but are not limited to, negotiating employee contracts; hiring assistant principals, counselors, and other staff; approving the budget; adopting operational policies and resolutions; finalizing the master schedule; programming student schedules; negotiating Memoranda of Understanding with the Grossmont District for buy back of services; and managing summer school. Clearly, there is a lot to be done, but the collaborative spirit of Steele Canyon is up to the challenge. We look forward to our first day as a charter school!

The Governing Board wishes to thank everyone who has given their time and energy for this effort. For more information on the work the board is doing, consult the Steele Canyon website at www.steelecanyoncharter.net.

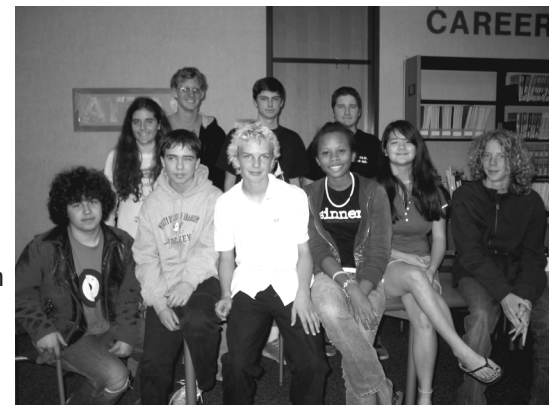
Junior Varsity? Junior Victory!

By Betty Jensen, Coach, Varsity and Junior Varsity Academic Teams

Steele Canyon's own Junior Varsity Academic team played all the way to the first League Championship in school history this past winter season. Comprised of mostly returning sophomores, they had a record of 9 wins and only 1 loss. The team was led by the two team captains, Wes Thompson and Ayn Woodward. Both the JV and Varsity teams practiced at lunch Mondays through Thursdays. They started practicing in the fall season in preparation for this past 2006-2007 season. All that dedication paid off with their impressive season.

"Beware of rashness, but with energy, and sleepless vigilance, go forward and give us victories." -- Abraham Lincoln

You guys did just that. Thanks for a great season! Congratulations JV Academic League!



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PAW PRINTS



Would you be interested in serving on the Board of the Steele Canyon Parent Teacher Organization? Please contact Debbie Sakarias, at 445-9003 if you are interested in one of the following positions.

Historian:

- (a) Assemble and preserve a record of the activities/achievements and volunteer hours of the organization;
- (b) Act as custodian of records and other materials pertinent to the history of the organization.

Membership Chair:

- (a) Conduct a membership campaign, which promotes Steele Canyon PTO and the programs and services we offer;
- (b) Keep a list of members, and their donations;
- (c) Input membership and volunteer information into computer.

Community Relations Chair:

- (a) Shall be responsible for the publication of the Paw Prints, the official newsletter of the Steele Canyon PTO;
- (b) Promote the Steele Canyon PTO and the programs and services provided to the students and teachers at Steele Canyon Charter High School in the community at large.

Grad Night 2008 Chairs:

- (a) Work with the senior class and their parents on Grad Night activities;
- (b) Report to the Executive Board on a regular basis the plans for Grad Night and get board approval prior to the commitment of any funds;
- (c) Provide the board with detailed financial reports on a regular basis.

Fundraising Chair:

- (a) Work with the Membership Chair on PTO promotions;
- (b) Work with School Staff on various PTO fundraising events throughout the year;
- (c) Look for grants that may be available, to fund various PTO projects

Every 15 minutes

- (a) Work with school in presenting the Turning 18 (anti-drinking and driving) program to junior and seniors.
- (b) Report to board on progress of program.



Life's Transitions

By Dr. Craig Rocha, Charter School Principal

As I have stated in my introductory message posted on the Steele Canyon Charter website (www.steelecanyoncharter.net), it is a privilege and honor for me to have accepted the position of principal at Steele Canyon Charter High School. And as I have said repeatedly, I approach my new role with great passion, humility, resolve, and commitment. Indeed, Steele Canyon's maiden charter voyage is a time of great importance in the history of our school community.

Becoming independent is a natural part of life's transitions, but going off on one's own for the first time is never an easy task! The best life analogy for this involves graduating seniors, all of whom achieve a long-awaited independence after high school graduation. As these new moments of independence evolve, our young people are faced with the tasks of applying what they have learned to real life situations; re-testing and re-trying the values they have developed over the years; and beginning the formulation of a new ethos of self-sustainability that ultimately determines their future roles within the larger society. Making some "mistakes" during this newfound period of independence is inevitable, but the secret to a successful life transition for our new graduates lies in their minimizing such mistakes and building upon a life purpose developed from family and social experiences during formative years.

That said, Steele Canyon's initial charter voyage will be much like the experiences of graduating seniors everywhere. Just as the young adults, we, too, will face the task of applying what we have learned as a school community to the reality of working as an independent school. We will re-test and re-try our school's founding mission and vision, including the values which have made Steele Canyon a "New School for a New Century." We will reaffirm and continue to develop an ethos of self-reliance and continuous improvement that will define our roles within the larger educational community! And yes, I suspect that we will make some "mistakes" along the way; but with the confidence that these will be kept to a minimum. Our relentless focus will be on helping prepare our students to broach the same life transition that we, ourselves, are re-experiencing during this formative year as a new charter school!

Just as our graduating seniors this June, we are all about to re-discover and re-apply our essential values as a school community during a new life transition.

Please join me now in pledging all of your time and talent to help our school remain strong and self-sustaining during the important school year that starts on July 1. Please remember the core values which have kept Steele Canyon alive and well during its formative years: "Take care of yourself; take care of each other; take care of this place."

My vision of Steele Canyon's first year of independence was described years ago by President John Kennedy when he wrote the following words:

"We choose to go...not because [it is] easy, but because [it is] hard, because that goal will serve to measure and organize the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win."

Yes, Steele Canyon Charter High School, we all intend to continue to win!

Limited Yearbook Supply!

By Ms. Dickinson and the Yearbook Staff

There are less than 200 Yearbooks left for purchase. There will not be any more ordered and the supply is very limited. I encourage you, especially if you have a Senior, to reserve your copy as soon as possible. The price is \$85 and it will increase to \$90, cash only, on May 31st (if there are any yearbooks available at that time). Thank you for your support!

A Reminder

From Julie Uto, Finance Tech

Parents will be able to purchase registration items for school year 07/08 online as of May 18th.



Peer Tutors: The Real Backbone of Steele Canyon

By Sabrina Howard, Student

Steele Canyon High School students strive to do the best they can academically by meeting the curriculum expectations required for all of the students. With the help of our outstanding teachers and staff, each student can do just that. Although teachers do an amazing job helping our students rise to their fullest potential, we would not be able to do as well achieving the standards without the help of our school's brave and intelligent peer tutors.

At SCHS, peer tutors are students who have signed up to help fellow peers who have various disabilities or students who are struggling in class. Each tutor is assigned an individual (or individuals) having difficulty in a certain course, or with a student who has a cognitive, mental, or physical disability. Peer tutors go through a series of training that focuses on the causes and characteristics of various disabilities, and learn how to become a more effective peer tutor.

There are many ways and reasons why and how peer tutors make a massive contribution to the teaching and learning of students, yet there is one reason that stands out above all the rest. Ask yourself this, "Who can connect with and help a student better than a fellow student?" I recently created a survey asking 30 random male and female students across all grade levels who they would ask for help if they were confused during an assignment. With the choices being a teacher, a fellow student, or a family member, the results showed 74% of students would ask for a peer's help, 23% would ask for a teacher's help, and 3% would ask for a family member's help. It is indeed true -- students relate to other students because they have gone through similar experiences themselves. My opinion is that peer tutors help their tutees by relating to them better than any adult, both in academics and social/emotional needs.

With the help of Steele Canyon's courageous peer tutors, we can ensure the academic and social successes of our school's wonderful students and bring back the self-confidence that so many of us lack due to our abilities and inabilities in the rigorous curriculum present as SCHS. Please consider how much you have to offer others through peer tutoring and enroll in the course to support all students at SCHS.

Bits and Blurbs from the PTO

GRAD NIGHT UPDATE FOR SENIORS: PARENTS, DO YOU REALIZE that there are very few school days left before your students graduate? Don't let them miss out on their FINAL CELEBRATION with the CLASS of 2007. Buy a Grad Night ticket today at the Finance Office for \$75. The deadline for ticket purchases is May 31st! Congratulations to Stella Munro who won Prom tickets in the April drawing. Parents, purchase your student's Grad Night tickets now and have his/her name entered in the May raffle contest, the prize is a Starbucks gift card.

Members of the PTO - please attend the next PTO meeting on June 5th at 6pm. A vote will be held for the new board and we need YOU to vote! Here is the slate of officers and committees:

Board Members 07/08

President: Thomas Parr
 Vice President: Michelle Blue
 Secretary: Jeff Campbell
 Treasurer: Lynn Mullahey
 Auditor: - OPEN -
 Parliamentarian: Mary Timm
 Historian: - OPEN -
 Membership Chair: - OPEN -
 Membership Input, Mary Kaster
 Community Relations Chair
 Newsletter: Debbie Sakarias
 Volunteer Coordinator: Veronica Powers
 Grad Night 2008 Chairs: - OPEN -

Hospitality Chair: Linda Allen
 Fundraising Chair: - OPEN -
 e-scrip/Albertsons

Program Chair

Student Recognition: Kim Beatty
 Turning 18: Colleen Llanos
 Cougar Hall of Fame: - OPEN -
 Every 15 Minutes: - OPEN -

DAC Representative: Anita Sorgenfrey

Principal: Dr. Craig Rocha
 Staff Representative: Laura Boehmke
 ASB Student Representative

Athletics Booster Club Rep
 Band Booster Club Rep
 Drama Booster Club Rep
 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Grade Reps

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Michelle Blue, Mary Timm, Debbie Sakarias, Veronica Powers, Laura Boehmke

Thank You,
 PTO Nominating Committee
 Michelle Blue, Mary Timm, Debbie Sakarias, Veronica Powers, Laura Boehmke