

STEELE CANYON PTO Paw Prints

Farewell to Paw Prints Editor Debbie Sakarias

Thank you, Mrs. Sakarias
for
your incredible contributions
to the
Steele Canyon High School
Paw Prints!

Cougar Blood Drive: Donating Saves Lives

Our first of four blood drives for this year will be on Tuesday, October 13th. The drive will be from 8-2. You can register online at www.sandiegobloodbank.org or sign up in the quad the week before the drive.

Last year, we collected 262 units of blood saving 524 lives! We finished 12th in the High School Challenge! The goal this year is to place in the top 10.

You must at least 17

to donate. Juniors and Seniors who are at least 17 should be receiving an announcement in the mail in the next few weeks.

Just because you can't donate doesn't mean you can't be involved. Anyone who needs service hours for graduation can join the Cougar's Making a Difference group to help make appointments and greet donors on the day of the drive. Mr. Ritter had an informational meeting on Wednesday,

September 16.

If you can't come to our drive but want to donate anyway, please designate your donation to Steele Canyon.

Remember, make a difference, and donate one more time this year!

Thanks,

Michael Ritter
Math Teacher
SCCEA Treasurer
Blood Drive
Coordinator

Governing Board Message

On behalf of the Governing Board, I am pleased to welcome the Cougar Community back for a new school year. The first Governing Board meeting of the school year, held on September 9, addressed some critical issues. Foremost among them is the consideration of a revised budget, with the recommendation of Dr. Rocha and the budget team. The fiscal independence afforded by our status as a Charter school is a great asset during these trying budgetary times, and the Board considers the work of the school's budget team to be of vital importance to the future of Steele Canyon. Additionally, the Board took action on a revised charter as part of the

charter renewal process and hearing update on contract negotiations.

The Board held a reception honoring CIF champions from the spring sports season and our first staff member retiring from our California Charter School. For more information, please visit the Governing Board page, available from the school's main webpage at schscougars.net. Thank you for supporting Steele Canyon, and here's to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Jim Rhoades
Chair, Steele Canyon
Governing Board

Math Tutorials

**Mondays - Thursdays
2:45 to 3:45**

Mondays	Room F107
Tuesdays	Room F101
Wensdays	Room E102
Thursdays	Room F205

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

www.steelecanyonpto.net

Vol. 20 Oct/Nov 2009

Principal's Message

by Dr. Craig Rocha, Principal and CEO

Welcome everyone to the new 2009-10 school year! We have been up and running since August 13, 2009, and have started our third year of charter school operation with a record number of students. At the time of this writing, we have 2,212 students enrolled: 593 at 9th grade, 575 at 10th grade, 540 at 11th, and 504 at the 12th grade. Our new-found growth has occurred because (1) we have become a school in demand since the charter's inception (we still have a waiting list at each grade level!); (2) we require new revenue to maintain the current level of programs during this time of challenge with state finances; and (3) we must admit students now as East County schools and districts (including Steele Canyon) start a long period of enrollment decline.

Yet during this period of declining enrollment in East County schools, it is comforting to know that Steele Canyon continues to operate at full maximum capacity. This bodes well for our school in future years!

Recent Results

In an article entitled "777; Yes, 777" (published in the March 2009 edition of *Paw Prints*), I explained that we had set an Academic Performance Index (API) target of "777" for the California State standardized testing we were about to administer to our students last April. While we did not reach our self-set target of 777, we did beat the state target of +5 and achieved our second largest increase in the school's history! (Refer to the API Chart below.)

The new Steele Canyon Academic Performance Index for 2009 is now **772**—an increase of +20 points for the work that our students, staff and you did last year! Thus, in just two charter school years, our Academic Performance Index **has risen 41 points!**

HISTORY OF STEELE CANYON API SCORES		
YEAR	API SCORE	CHANGE
2009	772	+20
2008	752	+21
2007	731	-3
2006	734	-1
2005	735	+16
2004	719	+15
2003	704	BASE

On behalf of our entire school community, I offer my sincerest thanks and praise to our students for their trust in us and their sincere effort in taking the tests more seriously; to the entire staff, for their collective hard work in continuing to re-launch the direction of our academic mission; to all parents for your support of our young people; and to our Governing

Board, for their faith and trust in the Steele Canyon Mission and Vision we have established over the past two school years!

Instructional staff members must now continuously analyze our students' areas of strength as well as the obvious areas in which we need to improve our teaching and learning. We must use "data driven teaching" to ensure that the gains we have recently made continue into next school year.

(Note for parents: A new website (<<http://www.starsamplequestions.org/>>) offers parents a guide for each grade level assessed on the California Standards Tests).

Charter Renewal

Another major milestone for Steele Canyon will lie in its presentation of a Charter Renewal application to the Grossmont Union High School District Governing Board this fall. We remain confident that our success as a charter school will be recognized by the Grossmont District as we petition that system to grant us a charter renewal for five years! Stay tuned!

People in the Spotlight

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

- Curriculum Night, August 20: An estimated crowd of close to 500 parents/guardians attended this event and recorded approximately 1,500 separate parent/guardian-to-teacher visits!

- In competition with other high schools in San Diego County, our 2009 *Canyon Echoes* Yearbook took home a 1st place ribbon at the 2009 Del Mar Fair.

- On August 29, teacher Laura Boehmke and a committee of parent boosters coordinated our first Kickoff Dinner and fundraiser for the Steele Canyon Football program. The event was covered on KUSI News that evening by guest of honor Paul Rudy during his sports segments! All in all, \$11,000 was raised to support Cougar Football!

- 2008-09 was a fabulous year for Steele Canyon Athletics, a "dynasty in the making." Cougar sports teams won a total of 9 league titles and 3 CIF titles, more than any other school in the Grossmont South League. CIF titles included Wrestling, Boys Track & Field, and Girls Track & Field. League titles went to Girls Cross Country, Wrestling, Boys Basketball, Boys Tennis, Boys Golf, Baseball, Softball, Boys Track & Field, and Girls Track & Field.

- Girls and Boys Track & Field Coaches, Charles Tyler and Gary Stathas, were honored last spring as "CIF Coaches of the Year."

And the beat goes on!

Editorial

Research Notes: Changing the Belief Systems of Students by Dr. Craig Rocha

{Note: This article originally appeared in the August/September, 2002, edition of Paw Prints. It has been updated several times and is believed to still be important for Steele Canyon community members in 2009.}

In the early 1970s, Carol Dweck, a professor of psychology at Columbia University, did a series of studies to investigate why some young people feel helpless in school and hence give up on schoolwork. Her studies have a powerful message for us almost 40 years later!

Dr. Dweck found that students who believed school achievement depended mostly on unchangeable factors, such as inborn ability, were less committed to their schoolwork than those students who believed that academic success depended on **their own hard work and consistent effort**. Dweck's research also showed that if a child views natural ability as more important than hard work, it is not impossible to change that perception. For example, in one of her studies, students read literature with themes about characters who triumphed over great obstacles because of persistence and tenacity. These same students subsequently chose more challenging projects to complete than did other students in a class in which the stories studied were focused on characters with great "inborn" insights and talents. The message is clear for parents, teachers, and students: **Persistence and effort are keys to academic achievement**—not necessarily natural abilities or "gifts" which come from birth.

But in many schools across this nation, students continue to believe—mistakenly—that natural, "born" ability determines academic success.

Parents and teachers can help develop a

character of persistence in young people by asking for probative reflections about how an individual child completed an academic task. For example, ask incisive questions about the thinking process and/or problem-solving strategies which led to a student's success (i.e., "Explain the process you used to solve this problem," or "Describe what you have learned in completing this project"). Such questioning is far more valuable than the following comments: "You did a great job on that assignment," or "You're so smart!"

Interestingly, Dweck's seminal research clearly shows that praise for self-esteem alone is shallow. Her finding is supported by the work of educational researcher Dr. Alfie Kohn, who recommends making comments that support the child's effort in learning for its own sake. Instead of only dishing out self-esteem praises about the young person as a person, the teacher and parent can express their excitement about—for example—the written product created by the young person, the science research being planned, or the historical perspective paper being written. Kohn recommends, "Describe rather than evaluate" while conversing with the young person about both the academic content as well as the learning process involved in a particular project. This is the best way to transmit a self-esteem message to the child!

Dr. Martin Seligman of the University of Pennsylvania advises parents and teachers to help students argue against their own pessimistic thoughts. This means encouraging children to believe that almost any setback or failure can be temporary. ("The 'F' on that math test is not permanent; and with more study and just plain hard work, a plan of action can be launched to correct the setback.") Similarly, educators and parents must encourage children to think that academic successes are causal. ("The 'B' on that last math test was not the result of luck, but rather resulted from the hard work and effort which you committed!")

Similarly, in a pioneering essay entitled, "Why General Knowledge Should Be a Goal

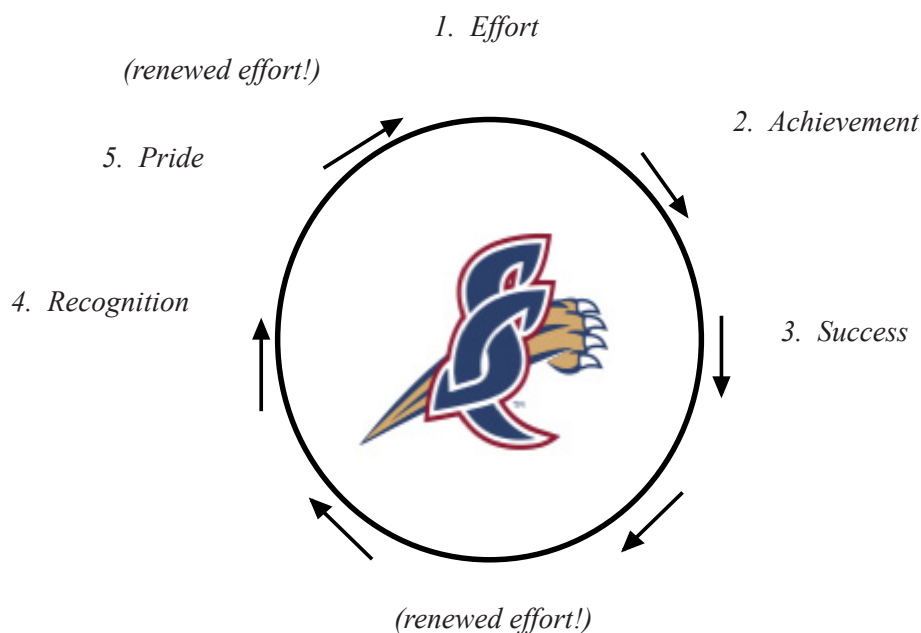
of Education in a Democracy," researcher E.D. Hirsch supports the fact that new knowledge makes one smarter. Simply put, according to Hirsch, knowing more makes one better able to learn new things. But unfortunately for our kids, Americans tend to assume that academic competence is mainly a product of innate ability. Sadly, so many parents and students still cling to the notion that somehow DNA determines how "smart" a child can become!

While completing a graduate internship a decade ago, I spent extended time at the University of Pittsburgh studying with cognitive scientist Dr. Lauren Resnick, Director of Pitt's Learning Research and Development Center. Resnick's research confirms the following fact: When standards are high and students make consistent effort in school, this combination will result in an increase in intelligence and ability! This is the philosophy undergirding our work at Steele Canyon High School.

So despite some improper belief-systems prevalent in our culture, learning research spanning through the 1970s, 80s, 90s, and into this new millennium supports a common theme for students of all ages: Continuous and persistent effort, over time, will increase an individual's intelligence and ability. Steele Canyon High School, "a new school for a new century," recognizes this finding and will continue to work with students who may not understand that increased effort actually enhances intelligence over time.

I would like to submit the following graphic to all students and parents of Steele Canyon, a figure that shows the relationship of effort to success. Steele Canyon instructors know that when a student produces effort, and then experiences some achievement, success, and recognition, that same young person will often renew his/her effort. And we now have a plethora of cognitive research demonstrating that unrelenting effort is the major ingredient for student success—even when (not "if") school studies get tough!

The Cycle of Success



The Class of 2010

University of CA's website for their application process will be available to access for potential students on **October 1st**. Students are encouraged to begin their application process as soon as possible to avoid delays. **Applications cannot be submitted until Nov 1st and must be completed by Nov 30th**. For more information and specifics about one of the nine UC Campuses and their application processes, visit their website: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/welcome.html>

The CA State University's application period begins October 1st and closes November 30. Students are encouraged to go to www.csumentor.edu and begin their student profile and application as soon as possible. Waiting until the last minute will jeopardize your possible acceptance into the school of your

choice.

The **Cuyamaca Links Program** will be introduced for the first time this year to Steele Canyon students. It is a three stage program that will begin with a parent/student informational meeting in November at SCHS, followed by student placement exams and assessment in early spring. Finally, the program will continue in May with students registering for their fall classes prior to graduation. This is the easiest and most convenient way to secure your student's classes and program of study after high school. More details will be provided to students as we secure dates and times with Cuyamaca's Guidance Teams.

There will be a SDSU Admissions Rep on campus for an application workshop on October 12th. Students need to come to the

Guidance Office to sign up prior to reserve their spot.

The 12th grade team would like to encourage all students to begin planning for their "next step!" Whether our students are entering the work world, attending a college or university, joining the military or fulfilling their dreams, goals and ambitions in other nontraditional ways, it is time to prepare for life after high school. For more information about your student's post high school opportunities contact the SCHS guidance office.

Class of 2013 - Welcome Lucky '13!

I want to welcome all of the Cougar Cubs of the Class of 2013 and their families to Steele Canyon High School. Hopefully, you have all made yourselves at home and have started showing off your new found school spirit at one of our sporting events, fine arts performances or assemblies. I also hope that you have had an opportunity to experience the spirit of service and the high degree of student involvement on our campus. There's no doubt that our Freshmen will catch that spirit and get involved on our campus, too.

By the time you read this message in Paw Prints, the Class of 2013 will have already elected their first President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These Class Council officers will have already organized the class' first fundraiser, hoping

to raise money for Homecoming 2009 festivities. After Homecoming, the Class Council will be raising money for future class activities, ultimately leading toward their Senior events, such as the Senior Banquet, Senior Awards Night and, of course, Prom 2013.

I urge you to help our young leaders of the Class of 2013. Throughout the year, the Council will be asking for your support. Whether it is a fundraiser or a call to volunteer at an event, please do your part to get the Class of 2013 on the right track.

If you would like to contribute to their SCHS fundraising account, you can make your check out to:

Steele Canyon High School
On the memo line, please write, "Class of

2013 Donation"

Please mail your check to...
Steele Canyon High School
Attn: Class of 2013
12440 Campo Rd.
Spring Valley, CA 91978

Thanks for choosing Steele Canyon High School and the "lucky" Class of 2013. I look forward to meeting all of you in the next four years!

Sincerely:

Ruben Martinez
Class of 2013 Advisor
Social Science Teacher
(619) 660-3649
rmartinez@guhdsd.net

Class of 2011

Welcome back to school. It's hard to believe that we are in the beginning of your junior year. Where did the time go? Hopefully the initial few days of school went well as you are now settled into your classes. Some of you may have found the first couple of days somewhat "hectic" as you met new teachers, classmates, began a new curriculum or uncomplainingly waited for your schedule to be changed. We definitely appreciate your patience! Many of you are experiencing the challenge and excitement of AP classes, advanced level Math and World Languages classes, new electives, and a different approach to Science and English/History. We are confident that with hard work and commitment, each of you will be successful in all of your classes.

Junior year is considered the major year for college admission testing. The **PSAT**, which will be administered on Saturday October, 17th at 8:00 am, is linked to the National Merit Scholarship. If you want to be eligible for various college scholarship opportunities through the National Merit

program you can only be a qualifier if the test is taken during the junior year of high school. Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity!

Additionally, the **SAT** is an important college admission test you should take this year. Most students take the exam in the spring; however, it is offered and can be taken anytime throughout the year. Some schools, especially UC schools and Ivy Leagues, require the SAT 2 subject test. Some campuses also like for students to take the **ACT** test; please check the admission requirements of your prospective school to determine specific test requirements. Both the SAT and ACT are offered throughout the school year with specific registration deadlines. You can visit the Guidance page on the Steele Canyon website for more information regarding the above tests.

Finally, as a friendly reminder, if you are now driving to school, you must have a parking permit in order to park on campus. Permits can be picked-up from Mrs. Simms

in the Duplicating Office. Also, please remember if you are driving that it is your responsibility to arrive at school on time. We understand that the traffic situation is not as convenient as we would like, therefore, allow yourself extra time in the mornings to get here. You must be here and on time in order to do well in your classes.

As always, we are here to support and assist you with your educational goals. Feel free to stop by our office, e-mail or call us anytime if you have questions or concerns.

Your 11th Grade Guidance Team,

Ms. Clark
Mr. Harvey

Finance News

Yearbook Update

Deluxe and Senior Yearbook Packages were on sale until Sept. 25th. Now, only “Basic” yearbooks (currently \$78.00) will be sold. The Basic Yearbook price will increase when we return from Winter Break.

Senior Yearbook Ads

Deadline to turn in photos for Senior Ads is Oct. 30th. All photos and tributes can be sent electronically to kdickinson@guhdsd.net or place the hard copies in Ms. Dickinson’s mailbox in a sealed envelope. **DO NOT GIVE MATERIALS TO YEARBOOK STAFF.**

PSAT

On sale (\$15.00) at the Finance Office or at the Web Store as of

Sept. 8th. We’ve sold out of tests the last 2 years, so buy yours today!

Homecoming Game

Oct. 30th vs. Mount Miguel

Homecoming Dance

Tickets go on sale in mid Oct. Homecoming Dance will be on Saturday, Nov. 7th.

Winter Sports Clearance

Starts November 2nd. Athletic Sports Packets can be downloaded on the school website: schscougars.org. Go to parent and click on Athletic Clearance Packet. If your student has already turned in a full packet for a fall sport, they will need to go to the front office

or the Finance Office and request a “mini clearance card”. This is all they need to fill out to play another sport. Physicals are only needed once a year. If your student didn’t participate in Fall sport and needs a physical for a winter sport, we will have our doctor on campus prior to Nov. 2nd. The date has not been determined yet. Start checking the “Daily Bulletin” around mid Oct. for the date and time.

Making Change

The Cafeteria will not cash \$50 or \$100 bills. The Finance Office doesn’t always have enough change to cash large bills. Please do not bring \$50’s and \$100’s to school.

Julie Uto
Finance Tech/Cheer Advisor
Steele Canyon High School

Cheer Car Wash Fundraiser



Cheerleaders performing a car wash cheer

JV and Varsity cheer held a car wash Aug. 29th at Sweetwater Springs off the 94 Freeway from 8-3:00 p.m.

It was one of the hottest days we've had all summer, but our girls were all smiles for every person that braved the heat to sit in line (which was out to the street most of the day) and show support for Cheer.



First Annual Cougar 5K/10K Run/Walk October 18th @ SCHS

This will be a challenging race behind the hills of Steele Canyon High School. There will be a post race Health Fair with lots of goodies. 100% of the profits will be going to the Freshmen Cheerleaders and our wrestling team. So come out and enjoy the fun! This race is sanctioned by USA Track & Field.

Please do not mail in entry forms after October 10, 2009.

Pay on line:

Go to www.schscougars.org and click on Cougar Fun Run/Walk, select the 5K or 10 K. Use RAHRAH for student ID.

REGISTRATION

By mail:

Go to www.schscougars.org to get a copy an entry form and mail it in to 12440 Campo Road Spring Valley, CA 91978 Attention: Finance

ENTRY FEES

	before 10/10	day of the race
5K	\$20	\$25
10k	\$25	\$30

Athletic Booster Club

The objective of the Steele Canyon High School Athletic Booster Club is to promote and assist, in any way possible, all the athletic programs and student athletes at Steele Canyon High School. The majority of the 2009/2010 Athletic Booster Club Board is made up of new members. We are learning the ropes but have accomplished a lot in such a short time.

The first big undertaking was a Special Project sponsoring the Cougar Kickoff Fundraiser Dinner. The football moms worked hard all summer to put together this special fundraiser to earn money to get home jersey's for the football

team and to upgrade much needed equipment and supplies to allow our Cougar Football Boys to be the best that they can be.

Our next and one of our biggest opportunities to raise money for all teams is our **Cow Plop Bingo**. This will take place on November 6th at the JV/V Valhalla, "Jamacha Helmet," game. Any team or club can sell tickets which in turn earn money for their team or club. Tickets are sold for \$10.00 per chance and the team or club earns \$5.00 for each ticket sold. The other \$5.00 goes to the general fund to help support all sport teams. The winner wins \$1,000 if the cow

plops his business on your ticketed square. So please look at the Cow Plop Flyer and contact us if you want to sell tickets for your team or club and please purchase a ticket from one of our students. Last year Cheer made over \$1,000 for their club. You go girls!!

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the staff lounge, after the PTO meeting. Thank you for your continued support for our student athletes.

Tricia Bosvay
Athletic Booster Club President

Scholarships

Name of Scholarship	Eligibility	Deadline	Award Amount	Web Address
BBB Torch Awards Scholarships	Juniors and Seniors - Complete an application and write a 400 word essay about the importance of marketplace ethics.	10/26/2009	Five total scholarships from \$500 to \$1500	http://www.sandiego.bbb.org/events/torch.html
Brian Graves Memorial Scholarship	Pursuing an education in Marine Biology at a 4-year college, 2 letters of recommendation	4/1/2010	TBA	Applications on file in the Guidance Office
Cappex - I don't want to pay for College Scholarship	High school diploma. GPA 2.0	11/30/2009	\$1,000	www.cappex.com/scholarship
Cappex - A GPA isn't everything Scholarship	Extracurricular, leadership, and volunteer activities	11/30/2009	\$1,000	www.cappex.com/scholarship
Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation	Senior, 3.0 GPA, based on academic achievement, capacity to lead, and hours of dedicated community service	10/31/2009	\$10,000-\$20,000	www.coca-colascholars.org
Elks - Teenager of the month	Seniors from top 10% of class, recommended by teacher, counselor, or principal. One winner per month	Monthly	\$350 cash	http://www.elks.org/lodges .
Elks CA/Hawaii Disabled student Award	US citizen, resident of CA/HA. Have a physical, neurological, visual or hearing impairment, and/or speech/language disorder.	See Website	\$1000-2,000/year for 4 years	www.chea-elks.org
Elks CA/Hawaii Vocational Grant Program	US citizen, resident of CA/HA. Open to students applying for a vocational/technical degree, full-time class schedule	runs Jan 1st - Mar 15	\$1,000 a year for 2 years	www.chea-elks.org
Elks Lodge # 1812 / El Cajon	Seniors, vocational training, interview with Elks Committee required. Local area only	All-year, return within 3 months of receipt	possible 2 year full scholarship	pick up application at El Cajon Elks Lodge 1400 E Washington Ave
Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship	Seniors going for a 4 year college degree. Leadership qualities, achievements in athletics or community service etc, financial need.	All year	\$500 -\$60,000	www.chea-elks.org
National Merit Scholarship Program	Students who meet published program entry/participation requirements* enter NMSC competitions by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) at the specified time in the high school program, usually as juniors.	11/2/2009	Varies	www.nationalmerit.org
Oh, the Places You'll Go Random House Books Essay	Open to seniors, essay topic Dr. Seuss's OH, The Places You'll Go!. Typed minimum font 12 points, double space, no more than 500 words. Name and title at top of entry.	10/17/2009	\$5,000	www.ohtheplaces.org
Profile in Courage Essay Contest	Grades 9-12, write an essay about an elected public official who has acted courageously to address a political issue at any level of government.	2/15/2010	\$500-\$10,000	http://www.jfkcontest.org
Prudential Spirit of Community Award	Students in grades 5-12, who volunteer their services in the community.	1/9/2010	\$1,000-5000, a medallion, and all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., next May	www.prudential.com/spirit
Safe Jobs for Youth - Poster & Video Contest	9-12 grade. Create a poster or video clip highlighting job safety and health for teens.	11/11/2009 Poster- 2-Nov-09 Video Clip -11-Jan-10	\$200-\$400	www.youngworkers.org
Wendy's Heisman Award	Available for both male & female high school students who exhibit excellence in the classroom, on the field and within their communities. Seniors only, "B" grade average, participation in at least one of the 33 sports officially sanctioned by the National Federation of State High Schools.	10/1/2009	See Website	www.wendysheisman.com

Attention Seniors!

This year's Parking Lot Auction proved to be a very successful fund raiser for the Senior Class earning a record \$10,920! Many thanks to this year's "electric" auctioneer Mr. Tyler, who stirred up some lively bidding competition among juniors and seniors for those coveted front spots. Following the auction, the recipients of the 101 spaces wasted no time showing off their talents in personalizing their new spots.

And the ballots are in and counted. The senior's voted on the colors (dark purple and gray) and look of the new class T-shirts. They are in the process of being ordered and will be sold as a fundraiser to help support the class activities this year. More to follow on when the T-shirts will be available for sale.

Let's not forget this year's Homecoming

which will take place on Friday, October 30th. As tradition dictates, there will be a competition among all of the classes to decorate and parade a float down at the football field. Prize monies will be given to the winning class. Can the seniors win again this year? We hope so!



All upcoming events and activities will be posted on the NEW senior bulletin board donated by the Class of 2009 which is located at the North K Building on the side of room K109. Stay up to date on what the class is doing by checking out the board as you make your way around campus.

Want to get involved with the Senior Class? Our class council meetings are held every Wednesday at 1:00 pm in room K115. Show up and check it out. We are always looking for new faces!

PSAT Now Available to Purchase

The PSAT is now available for purchase at the Finance Office and online at the Steele Canyon web store at <http://steel-canyon.revtrak.net/tek9.asp>. Just click on the TESTS link and then on the PSAT link. Tests are \$15. The PSAT will be administered on Saturday, October 17th at 8:00 am here at Steele Canyon. All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who think they might be interested in applying for a 4-year university should take the PSAT to better prepare them for the actual SAT, a requirement for most universities. National Merit Scholars are selected from the top PSAT scores as well, which provides students with scholarships for college. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to prepare for the college admissions process!

Shannon Roberts
10th Grade Counselor
Steele Canyon High School

BONJOUR !!!

The French Program is thanking our first donor, Jane Drake! Yes, she made a donation to our project to get a mini DV camcorder. If you want to join her, all you have to do is follow the steps:

- 1) go to www.donorschoose.org
- 2) in the key word box / project search box , type " Action and Cut"
- 3) you should be on our page and see a picture of the novel "Le comte de Monte-Cristo".
- 4) Then follow the direction to make a Tax Deductible donation.

That's is all! Merci beaucoup pour votre future don!
Thank you so much !

Thanks to the great website www.epals.com, the second year French class is going to write letters and emails to French students living in Marseille in the south of France. The students will participate in a project called "The Way We Are." It will be quite a cultural experience for both sides!!! They will be sharing details on how they live, what they eat, how school is organized and what they do for fun...etc. We will need some maps, pictures and/or photos, anything that will give it a sense of reality.

The first year classes are great! The students are using their knowledge of English and Spanish to connect with the French language! Some students even use Arabic and Polish! Simply Fantastic!

Thank you again for your support, feel free to contact me at : npetrasko@gushd.net or call me at : 619-660-3693

Au Revoir et à Bientôt !!!
Madame Petrasko



Students made crêpes and loved it!!!!
Thank you for helping make this cultural event a success !!!

Attention Juniors!

Hey Juniors and Junior Parents!

Senior year is quickly approaching and we need your help to make it a memorable year. Our Class of 2011 Council is working to raise money for our Senior activities such as prom, Senior banquet and graduation. We have a lot of fundraisers in the works and would love for you to participate. We hold meetings for students at school on Tuesdays at lunch in room K101. We are also looking for parent volunteers to lead our Prom Committee and other fundraisers. If you can help in any way or have questions, comments, fundraiser ideas

or donations, please contact us via our website, <http://schsclassof11.webs.com> or get in touch with our Class Council advisor via email: edecker@guhsd.net. As always, class t-shirts are on sale for \$12 and can be purchased on our class website or from class council.

Finally, we will be selling Hooley's discount cards for \$10 at home football games and through our website. Please consider supporting our class by buying a card. They provide a 15% discount on your total bill every time you eat at Hooley's for the next year (located in the Rancho shopping center).

Thank you for your support!

Travel Opportunity of a Lifetime

(A Non-School Sponsored Trip)

How are you spending Spring Break 2010?

Have you ever wanted to travel to China?

Visit the ancient city of Beijing, host of the past Olympics, home of Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and the Great Wall; and see the 8,000 Terra – Cotta Army of warriors in Xi'an. Also, on this exciting Asian adventure we will visit Shanghai to see China's largest and most cosmopolitan city and home of Jin Mao Tower, China's tallest building and the fifth tallest building in the world. While in Shanghai, we'll also enjoy talented performers of traditional Chinese acrobatics.

Continuing our adventure in Shanghai we'll visit the Jade Buddha Temple. From there, we travel to Hong Kong to see the Big Buddha and, of course, my personal favorite, exploring the many neighborhoods of this vibrant city where the shopping is endless. All this and much more awaits all those who are interested.

Contact Cheryl Acosta at cacosta@guhsd.net or phone 619-660-3650 to learn more.

(This is a non-school sponsored trip that will be led by teacher Cheryl Acosta as an independent contractor working in conjunction with the EF Educational Tours Company (www.efours.com.) All grade levels are invited.)

Support Programs

Tabacco Awareness Program (TAP)

Do you currently struggle with a nicotine addiction and would like help or support in quitting?

Steele Canyon High School's Tobacco Awareness Program (TAP) is designed for students who have a desire to quit tobacco use. TAP guides users to their quit date and helps them remain tobacco-free. The program also takes into account the fact that students begin, continue, and decide to quit using tobacco for a wide variety of reason. TAP curriculum encourages each student to choose the methods of cessation they believe will work best for them. Students will also learn the stages of quitting; precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action and maintenance.

nance.

Students will attend eight (8) one-hour sessions (dates and location TBD). The program is fun, informative and can be successful for students who are committed to quitting.

TAP is not designed to get students in trouble, but to inform students of the dangers of tobacco and consequences for having tobacco on campus. Parent permission is required for students who are interested in attending.

For more information or to sign-up, please see Mr. Harvey in the Guidance Office. You can quit if you want; the choice is YOURS!

Friday Night Live (FNL)

Do you want to get involved in leadership opportunities on campus but haven't found the right club to fit your needs?

Check out Friday Night Live!

The goal of FNL is to build positive youth relationships and encourage teenagers to be active leaders on their campus and in their communities.

Students are encouraged to motivate their peers to live a healthy drug, alcohol and tobacco-free lifestyle. Under the leadership of Mr. Harvey and Mrs. Schmal, students will develop activities and facilitate school-to-community service projects to promote alco-

hol and drug awareness.

FNL is populated by energetic students who are dedicated to reaching out to their school and community. Additionally, students will host lunchtime rallies, prevention campaigns and various presentations to spread the "drug free" message.

Friday Night Live is 80% fun and 20% message. The message is spread through shared experiences and positive activities rather than lectures. Please see Mr. Harvey or Mrs. Schmal in the Guidance for more information or to sign-up!

Cougar Stars

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great anticipation that we share some information with you about our Steele Canyon Student Recognition Program “Cougar Stars.”

Each quarter, after progress reports go out, teachers and staff are asked to select one or more students as their Cougar Star(s). These students are invited to a special luncheon given in their honor. The menu usually consists of pizza, salad, soft drinks or water, and cookies or brownies for dessert. The student’s lunch is paid for by our wonderful PTO. By the way, if you have extra time or money, please think about giving of yourself to this worthwhile organization. As you can see, students benefit from your efforts.

We are often asked, “What are the characteristics of a Cougar Star?” The answer is not as simple as being an excellent student academically. To be sure, academics are important, however, students may be recognized for the hard work and effort put forth in the pursuit of good grades. We recognize that C’s are a victory for some students and they should be recognized for their efforts. Students may also be chosen Cougar Star for their 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.”

Each student receives an invitation to the luncheon from Mrs. Millie Jaggard, Co-Coordinator of the Cougar Star Student Recognition Program. We ask that students RSVP so that we know how much food we need to order. (Please remind your child to do this!) They also receive a certificate with their name on it, which they keep. (You might suggest that they put these in their Cougar Binder!) At the luncheon, each student is handed a red star with their name on the front and their teacher’s name on the back. They are asked to give the star to their teacher as a memento. Teachers are putting up Cougar Star bulletin boards and collecting lots of stars. These will act as reminders of your child as teachers look back at those students she/he selected in years past!

Future editions of Paw Prints will contain the names of this year’s Cougar Stars. You may also go online to our website, schscougars.org. Go to the gray box and click

on Recognition. Once there, you will find a list of the most recent Cougar Stars.

Guidance likes to communicate with parents via email prior to the invitations going out to students. If you have not already provided your email address to your student’s grade level team, now would be an ideal time to do so!

If you have any questions about our Cougar Star Student Recognition Program, please contact Millie Jaggard, 9th grade Academic Advisor at mjaggard@guhsd.net or Patty Stanley, 10th grade Academic Advisor at pstanley@guhsd.net.

9th grade team:

jgoodloe@guhsd.net
mjaggard@guhsd.net

10th grade team:

pstanley@guhsd.net
shroberts@guhsd.net

11th grade team:

nclark@guhsd.net
sharvey@guhsd.net

12 grade team:

jschramm@guhsd.net
tschmal@guhsd.net

Public Service Announcements

The Steele Canyon Parent Teacher Organization believes that it is important to make parents and students aware of alternate educational opportunities, as well as travel opportunities, that may enrich your students’ lives. These opportunities are shared by teachers, fellow parents, or community organizations. Steele Canyon High School, a California Public Charter School, does not endorse any of the opportunities included in these announcements.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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PAW PRINTS: Calendar



September 8	PSAT test goes on sale
October 16	Quarter 1 Ends, Minimum Day for Students
October 17	PSAT Test
October 18	1st Annual Cougar Run/Walk 5K and 10K
October 19	Quarter 2 Begins
October 24	Extra -Curricular Eligibility
October 30	Homecoming Game vs. Mt. Miguel
November 2	Winter sports clearance starts
November 6	Cow Plop Bingo
November 7	Homecoming Dance
November 11	Veteran's Day (School Site Closed)
November 13	Quarter 2 Progress Report
November 16 - 20	American Education Week
November 21	Extra -Curricular Eligibility
November 25	Minimum Day for Students
November 26 & 27	Thanksgiving Recess

Editor: Carl Robinson &
Debbie Sakarias