

Issue # 4—March 24, 2008

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS - SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009

We would like to inform SCCS families that the Scholarship Application Form for the 2008-2009 school year is now available at the admissions office. The March 2008 Tuition must be paid in order to request the Scholarship Application Form. Please note that in order for your child to be considered for a scholarship, your application must be turned in to the Business Office no later than Monday April 21, 2008

FROM THE DIRECTOR

WILLIAM McKELLIGOTT

The application forms for scholarships for the 2008-2009 school year are available at the Admissions Office. All forms must be submitted by April 21, 2008 to the Admissions Office. A copy of their final report card, school year 2007-2008, must be submitted to the Admission Office by June 11, 2008. Parents will receive notification of scholarships on June 17, 2008. All parents must notify the school of the acceptance by June 27, 2008.

Santa Cruz Cooperative School will be celebrating its Fifty Anniversary as a school from April 1, 2008-December 31, 2009. There will be a series of events which will take place throughout this entire period to commemorate fifty years of service in Santa Cruz. The festivities will begin on Friday, April 18th with the Founder's Day Assembly and Saturday, April 19th with the Annual Fun Run. We are going to publish "The Golden Yearbook" which will be available in December 2009.

We have just finished our third quarter at SCCS. I hope that you will spend time with your children to review their progress at school and help supervise their homework.

Homework is assigned to help students reinforce what is learned in the classroom. Whenever a parent has a chance to review the homework that a child is doing, then you will be able to observe what your child is learning at school.

The school professional staff has been working extensively in the major project areas this year: curriculum mapping; writing and computer instruction. As a result of the work being done in curriculum mapping you will be able to get access on line to the curriculums that are being used in the classroom. The writing program at school has been emphasizing "six traits" in developing essays. This process will result in students improving their overall writing skills in both English and Spanish in the future. In the area of technology, the staff are being trained how to use computers technology in developing the curriculum. Computer technology is a very important facet for student learning.

I would like to recognize Mr. Robert Price, one of our secondary social studies teachers, for his appointment to be a reader of the AP United States History test. He has been selected as one of the few overseas educators to score/grade student papers in the U.S. during June. This is a high honor for the school and an outstanding recognition of successful teaching.

There has been a change in the calendar for April 2008. April 3 will be a regular day of school while April 4 will be a Professional Day, with no classes for students.

ELEMENTARY OFFICE

SUSAN ZAPATA, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES Since January the following activities are being held: Power Point, Word painting, African dance, Reading and crafts, Special Art for Kinder and First, Music for kinder/first, y Sports activities for kinder/first

Singing Club for 2nd-3rd Grades will begin on March 31 with Ms Tracey Baranck.

ADDITIONAL HELP If you think that your child requires more support at school, can participate in these programs: **FOCUS** for 4th and 5th grades; **Reading Club** for 3rd grade; **Reading Support** for 2nd-5th. Please call Susan Zapata for more information, 353-0808, extension 115.

FAMILY READING NIGHT You and your children in PK-3rd Grades are welcome attend the last reading night of the year from 18:30 a 19:30 on Wednesday, April 16 in the SCCS Library. Read together and check out books for both parents and children; we have books for all ages.

SPELLING BEE WINNERS The winners of the Bee are: First Place Jessie Nielsen (5A), Second Place Jesse Atkins (3A), and Third Place Matthew Delozier (5A). Congratulations on a great achievement-spelling aloud in front of one hundred spectators is a tough test.

WRITING ENRICHMENT CLASSES The after school support class will be Monday, March 24. Since we will have parent conferences on March 26 and 27, there will be no class on Thursday, March 27. The WRaP standardized writing test, will be April 1 and 2 at SCCS. Please make sure your child attends those days as all students from grades 3-5 will be evaluated.

FATHER'S DAY The Elementary Father's Day Program was held on March 14 at 8:00 a.m. Each class presented a song or poem to honor their fathers and prepared a card or gift. Refreshments were served to all those attending. Congratulations, Fathers, we enjoyed having you at school and sharing with you!

ELEMENTARY COUNSELOR

VANESSA KRAWIEC

Dear Parents,

Due to an initiative on the parent's side, we have decided to create a Parent Support Group, which allow parents to share resources, triumphs, challenges, and feelings that are unique to their families. During this journey, parents slowly gain a sense of self-esteem, hope and knowledge about their children. This is an opportunity for us to get to know closes, get to know each other and our children.

The Parent Support Group is opened to parents from elementary, middle and high school. We will be having a separate group for parents who only speak English, if that would be your case please contact me so that we can arrange a suitable schedule for everyone. For any information please contact me.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

CORY CARSON

SECONDARY DATES TO REMEMBER

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|--------------|--|
| March 26 | Secondary Parent Conferences |
| March 27 | Full Day of Classes |
| April 1 & 2 | ERB Standardized Writing Exam |
| April 4 | Full Professional Development Day |
| April 7 | Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Drama Production |
| April 1 & 16 | Handbook review: MS 7:00 -8:00 , HS 8:00 – 9:00 |
| April 18 | SCCS Founder's Day Celebration |

April 19

FUN RUN

As we head into the home stretch, now having completed more that 75% of the school year, I have a few thoughts to share with our community.

As a school we strive to be able to offer the best educational environment for the students to learn in and for the staff to work with students in. This notion of the value of education is being challenged by two serious issues that we continue to face in the secondary school.

Since Carnival we have noticed a trend which is an increase in the number of students arriving late to school. This week the reasons for lateness are often varied. The school understands that Santa Cruz is a large and fascinating city with some traffic issues and that sometimes we are delayed due to factors beyond our control. I ask you to please make the effort to leave the house 5 minutes earlier, if it is raining, maybe make it 10...with the goal of starting the day off right and being in class when the 8 am bell rings. What we want to do before the end of this school year is to have one day (preferably more) when everyone is here on time. In the near future, we look forward to celebrating our first (hopefully of many to come) no tardy days.

A second more disturbing trend is that we are seeing a greater number of students joining our F (Failure) list. This past progress report, the one marking the halfway point of the 3rd Quarter, saw approximately 40% of all students in the secondary school with one or more F's. To be exact we had 98 students, 37 in the MS students with 68 F's and 61 HS students with 128 F's. The major reasons for these failures were due to students who did not complete or did not submit homework. This is a form of thought that is starting to take hold in students down as low as 6th grade. There seems to be a belief amongst the students that homework is not important. Or at the very least, its importance is gauged once they know what their grade is near the end of the quarter and then they will decide whether or not to try to turn in their missing assignments to earn the extra credit needed to pass. Again, as parents, your help is needed. The school has incorporated services into our routines that facilitate the transfer of information to / from our professional staff to / from the parents. Edline is a service that we have purchased for the past 4 years. This service allows you the parent to log in and check the grades of your child(ren), access news and information about what is happening at SCCS or email your child's teachers. At the current time we have approximately 60 % of parents who have created an account. Here the problem is twofold...one is the apathy being exhibited by the students towards their studies, the second problem is that although parents have a tool to use at their convenience to aid in ensuring their children working to the best of their ability, it is not being used to its fullest capacity.

The education of a child is best achieved when 3 cooperating parties, the education professionals, the parents and the students, work together to realize the potential of that child. Through the recognition of these issues and efforts of contributing parties I believe we can make changes to our behavior patterns that will allow us to focus on the act of educating the child and spend less energy and effort in dealing with lateness and academic apathy.

To end on an extremely positive note, congratulations are in order for our very own AP History Teacher Mr. Robert Price. He has been asked to join a very select group of History teachers from around the world that serve as AP readers. These professionals come together to read and grade AP exams from all over world. In this instance he has been asked to score the may 2008 AP US History exam. This is a great honor for Mr. Price, and it is certainly great honor for SCCS to have one of our own recognized in this fashion. Kudos to you Mr. Price and a hearty congratulations on your newest appointment.

Regards

SECONDARY COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
MICHAEL VANDE LOO

We have a little school year left. This reminds us how much we have accomplished so far, yet how much is still left. We hope that everyone had a refreshing Semana Santa break, and is ready to give their best at the end of the race.

In March we continued with the 4th part of the Protége tu Corazon workshops. Students in 6th through 9th grade worked by grade level for an entire period on issues related to their character and moral development. We have continued to receive great feedback from the students, and the presenters. Some of the students have been excited about being able to express what they really feel in Spanish, since otherwise, for the majority of our students, it can be difficult to find the right words in their second language, English. The presenters have expressed that the students have been quite interactive and positive and seem to be enjoying working with our students.

The Protége tu Corazon workshops will continue in April and May for our students. There will also be a workshop for parents of the 6th through 9th grade students in order to give support to families with the development of their child. The date for this workshop will be announced in April and we encourage all parents to keep an eye out for the date of this presentation, as well as attend the presentation.

On the College Counseling side, the university acceptance letters continue to trickle in, but the majority is yet to come. We encourage parents and students in the 12th grade to have patience with this process, and also contact the Counseling Department with any questions or concerns regarding letters, offers, or other information the colleges and universities send you.

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

HEATH KONDRO

Ubiquitous...don't know what it means? Just look for an iPod. Present virtually everywhere and in almost every circumstance. There is no doubt that allowing someone to enjoy music in private is something that most of us are in favour of, but the degree that iPods/MP3 players have invaded our society globally. So what? It keeps the kids quiet and not complaining that they are bored right? Well, let's consider the following...

The ever-present iPod and MP3 player is actually connected to the following:

*Increased incidents of cheating in US schools and colleges. Students can put voice and text in their iPods/MP3 players and either listen secretly to their earphone or have the text displayed on the screen.

*Pedestrian accidents. People with iPods/MP3 players tend to isolate themselves from their surroundings and there are instances (as with cell phones) where people have been hurt or killed because they did not pay attention to the traffic issues near them.

*Theft and violence. iPods are the MOST trendy thing to come along in many, many years. There are many less fortunate that do not have hundreds of dollars to buy their own iPod but they want one so badly, that they will do almost anything to get one. With such an intrinsic value, there will always be theft issues and hopefully your child does not fall victim to these.

You as parents have the opportunity (and the obligation) to remind your child that loud music might be great right now but later in life, hearing loss is terrible. I personally suffer from more than 20% hearing loss due to headphones and earpieces from my youth spent behind a drum set. I cannot hear conversations in loud rooms and my TV is always set too loud for my wife's ears. Not only do I feel left out of conversations, I feel less intelligent because I cannot hear enough to fully understand and comprehend what is being discussed sometimes. It truly is an awful feeling.

LIBRARY

JOSIE HANNEMAN

The last few months have been productive in the SCCS Library Media Center. With the help of Mrs. Nancy Arrieta, there have been two Family Reading Nights, we've processed over 50 new donated books,

and the book order for next year has been completed! Additionally, the LMC has hosted some great classes working on a variety of projects, from survival guides (inspired by *Lord of the Flies*) to hurricane research (from *The Cay*). Teachers have used LMC resources to prepare for the Elementary Science Fair and teach some amazing units on the environment and ecology.

In April we will be having this year's second Book Fair, April 14-18. The Book Fair is a great opportunity to buy English language books at reasonable prices. The titles offered will include *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Amber Brown*, *Magic Treehouse* and many other popular books. There will also be a very limited number of titles in Spanish. Each student will be given a chance to make his or her selection during the first days of the Book Fair. Parents are welcome to purchase further books after school on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of that week.

April will also hold this year's final Family Reading Night. Students in PreK-3rd are welcome to come with their parents to check out books for home reading on April 9th, from 6:30-7:30.

SPORTS

INVITATION TO THE 2008 FUN RUN

Dear SCCS Parents:

This year the Fun Run will be held on Saturday, April 19th at 8:00 am at SCCS. This means we are about 6 weeks away from this event. The adult race is approximately 5.7 kilometers, and last year's male winner had a time of 26 minutes and 8 seconds. Last year's female winner had a time of 39 minutes and 20 seconds.

The SCCS Physical Education Department would like to offer some guidelines to any person competing in this event so that the Fun Run experience is a good one for both, you and your child.

It is important to build endurance and stamina for this event so we suggest starting your training with a slow 10-minute jog for a week (4-5 times per week) and increase by 10 minutes weekly until running comfortably for 30 minutes non-stop. When running in high temperatures please be advised to wear sun block and a hat, this will make your run more enjoyable.

Registration for the Run Run will be held from April 7-18 in the SCCS business office and at designated tables to be located at the gates before and after school. Please register early and buy your special commemorative Fun Run T-shirt. Upon registration you will be given a timeline of races and a map of the course. Registration will cost 5 Bs. per person.

This year's race will be the same as last year, and all awards will be handed out directly following each set of races. We would like to inform you that this year there will be no raffle at the end of the competition.

At this time we are also accepting any prize donations for our race winners; please send all donations to the Physical Education Department. Please keep in mind that we need prizes for ages 4 to adult. Every year we receive wonderful prizes and would like to thank you for supporting this annual event and participating along with our children. All donations should be sent by April 16th to ensure that all prizes are sorted for each category.

We hope this is helpful in your preparation for the annual Fun Run at SCCS. If you have any questions concerning this year's race, please feel free to stop by the SCCS Physical Education office. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact us at otaja@sccs.edu.bo or call us at 353-0808 extension 137.

In an attempt to reduce traffic problems, we recommend that if you live in Las Palmas, please walk to the school because parking will be limited to one block away from the school grounds, from 8-12.

William McKelligott
SCCS Director

Orlando Taja
Fun Run Organizer

HONOR ROLL- 3rd Quarter 2007-2008

HONOR

GRADE 9

Luis Eduardo Hinojosa
Michael Harrison
Mateus De Carvalho Nanni
Lucas Tardio
Natalia Aponte

GRADE 10

Karla Flores

GRADE 11

Ariana Aguilera
Mayra Adriazola
Thalia Pedrotti
Jorge Rojas
Gustavo Cordova
André Saavedra

GRADE 12

Stephanie Anglarill
Irene Sanchez

HIGH HONORS

GRADE 9

Shady Anello

GRADE 10

Agustina Rodriguez
Ana Paola Justiniano
Kenia Guilarte

GRADE 11

Leila Rozenman

GRADE 12

Amira Sadud
Maria José Landivar
Cristóbal Roda
Jessica Reichsfeld
Natalie Melgar
Claudia Perez
Ximena Velez

HIGHEST HONORS

GRADE 9

GRADE 10

Nicole Vargas
Maria Fernanda Antelo
Cecilia Aponte
Nicole Elias
Ma. Cristina Espinoza

GRADE 11

David Shin
Silvia Linggi

GRADE 12

Nataly Noguer
Dominique Harrison
Maria Florencia Casares
Oliver Jones

