



# San Dieguito Academy

## Newsletter

### First Quarter 2014



Mr. Tim Hornig,  
principal

As the proud principal of San Dieguito High School Academy, it is my pleasure to work with our students and staff members to maintain a positive and rewarding experience for all SDA students and families.

SDA is and will always be a student focused school where academic rigor, student access, powerful instruction and a variety of course offerings ensure students' academic and personal growth. SDA students face a tremendous opportunity while here; that opportunity is to achieve in a variety of courses where the best teachers in California nurture student growth as writers, craftsmen, artists, speakers, linguists, scientists, mathematicians, actors, musicians, historians and athletes.

## *Welcome to the 2014-15 school year*

This year, and in subsequent years, you'll see SDA getting quite a makeover as a result of Proposition AA. With the completion of our stadium project, SDA will shift our focus to the Math/Science buildings, our tennis courts and the interim placement of classrooms throughout our projects. With a state of the art stadium, turf playing surface and track, all of our 2014-15 field sports will benefit this year. Students and staff are extremely excited to see the changes and benefit from the new facilities that can only enhance this amazing school. The plan is all encompassing, the timeline long, and patience by all will make for a smooth process. Rest assured that minimal impact to the instructional day and the students daily lives here on campus is my focus throughout the improvements. Thanks for your patience and support as we move through the years of construction.

I look forward to working with SDA's

families that expect the best from SDA in 2014-2015. Our supportive teachers and administrative team are always here to discuss school issues or the individual progress of any student with parents, guardians, and the students themselves. Additionally, the excellent counselors and other support staff make themselves available at all times to assist in supporting our students' experience.

Finally, I want to encourage you and your student to be engaged in all things SDA. Stay connected to SDA by reading our emails, following us on Facebook, communicating regularly with your student's teachers and getting involved by supporting the San Dieguito High School Academy Foundation. On behalf of SDA, thanks for supporting our amazing school, and we look forward to a great year!

*I'll see you on campus...*

## Freshman Orientation Week

San Dieguito Academy offers a special opportunity for freshmen in an effort to better acclimate them to SDA's culture. For the first week of school, freshmen will not go to homeroom. Instead, during the homeroom period (9:27 to 9:47 a.m.) they will attend a series of workshops that will give them all the information they need to make a smooth adjustment to high school.



Last year's freshmen selecting homerooms

- **Tuesday, August 26:** All freshmen will meet in the gym and be introduced to key school staff. A video produced by former SDA students will welcome them to SDA and share some valuable information about SDA and personal insight on things they wish they knew as freshmen. In addition, students will also learn our school's Mission and Vision Statement and be introduced to our Core Values.
- **Wednesday, August 27:** Hour lunch and so we do not have homeroom.
- **Thursday, August 28:** Students will break into alpha groups and meet with the three school administrators. Students with last names beginning A-G will meet in the Mosaic Café, H-P will meet in the gym, and Q-Z will meet in the Performing Arts Center. Mr. Hornig, Dr. Jones, and Mr. Kamon will review attendance procedures, how to access the nurse, off campus lunch, electronic device policy and theft, and zero-tolerance for bullying.
- **Friday, August 29:** Students will again break into alpha groups and meet their counselor and members of the PALs program. Students will learn about the many support services available to them at SDA.
- **Tuesday, September 2:** We'll offer all freshmen the opportunity to select their own homeroom for the school year. All students will again meet in the gym. Staff members will have lists of openings in each of our 60 homerooms, and students may sign up for the homeroom of their choice. If they choose, they may sign up with their friends for any available slots.

*We are very excited to welcome our new freshman class and hope that  
Freshman Orientation Week will get them off to a great start!*

# Welcome new teachers!



Pictured top row (l to r), Bryony Kinnear, Katherine Scott, Michael Christensen, Luke Duchene, Racquel Blancaflor, Tim Hornig, Leona Mullen, bottom row (l to r), Deb Abrahamson, Jaewon Lee, Annelise Ihle, Ruth Magnuson, Tracie Fossom and Ellen diChristina. Tina Moulton is not pictured.

## *Katherine Scott, Science*

Katie Scott graduated with a B.A. in biochemistry from the University of San Diego. After graduation, she spent several years researching breast cancer in a laboratory setting. She earned her credential from Point Loma Nazarene University, and is currently finishing her Master's in Teaching. In her free time, Katie likes to exercise, play spikeball, and bake cookies. As a former student of the San Dieguito Union High School District, Katie is looking forward to rejoining the community as a teacher, and helping her students nurture their own passion for science.

## *Jaewon Lee, Mathematics*

Jaewon Lee grew up in South Korea and Orange County, and then she moved to beautiful, sunny San Diego to attend UC San Diego. Ms. Lee majored in Mathematics and continued her education at UCSD to earn her Masters in Education. She loves being a math teacher, and she is excited to be part of SDA community. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, eating different kinds of food, watching soccer (Real Madrid!), and exploring San Diego.

## *Ellen diCristina, English*

From the time Ellen was a junior in high school, she knew she wanted to be a teacher. She attended Cal Poly, SLO, graduated with a B.A. in English Literature, and then—thanks to her love of reading—she immediately pursued a Single Subject Teaching Credential in English. She spent six years teaching a range of 8th grade Language Arts classes at a middle school in the San Luis Obispo area before she transferred to Arroyo Grande High School, also on the Central Coast, where she taught sophomore college preparatory and Pre-AP English classes for two years. Ready for a new adventure, she moved to Encinitas over the summer and has enjoyed getting to know her new home. Ellen is ecstatic at the opportunity to join the San Dieguito community and is eager to work with the students and staff of San Dieguito High School Academy.

## *Michael Christensen, Special Education*

Michael Christensen is a San Diego native, born and raised in Chula Vista. He attended San Diego State earning a B.A. in Social Science for Teaching. He attended National University earning his teaching credentials for Special Education and Social Science. Michael began his career in education as an assistant in Special Education classes in 2003. He started teaching in January 2006 at Chula Vista High. In 2010, Michael began teaching at Citrus Hill H.S. in Perris after his family moved to Menifee. He also coached high school football for 15 seasons. Michael is excited to be back home in San Diego! In his free time he loves playing and watching sports with his 12 year old son Ryan, going surfing, going to Disneyland, watching movies, and going to Chargers, Padres, and LA Kings games! Michael is thrilled to be a part of SDA and is looking forward to meeting new friends, colleagues, students, and having an exciting new school year!

## *Lucas Duchene, Special Education*

Luke Duchene went to San Dieguito H.S. in 10th grade (the year before it became the Academy) and graduated from LCC in 1998. He attended the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland earning a B.A. in Economics (with Honors). A few years out of college he discovered teaching as a career. Luke earned his teaching credential and a Masters in Education from National. His teaching career began in Northern California where he taught US History, World History, Economics, Government, and Law & Justice. He taught AP World History at CCA where he coached the JV swim team. For the past three years he has worked at the Army and Navy Academy in Carlsbad, where he taught US History, Economics, Government, AP Government, and Speech & Debate and coached the Speech & Debate and Swim teams. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two sons. Luke is excited to be an active member of the SDA learning community.

## *Deb Abrahamson, Physical Education*

Deb Abrahamson began teaching in 1999 at SDA. She returns after four years at other district schools developing fitness programs in P.E. while maintaining her long term coaching position as the JV boys' and girls' tennis coach at SDA. School breaks find Deb at the family house in La Paz, Baja California Sur where she paddle boards, fishes, dives and enjoys life on the water. SDA has always been home for Deb and fitness her passion.

## *Ruth Magnuson, English*

Ruth graduated from Pomona College with a B.A. in Spanish, and earned her teaching credential and Master's Degree in Education from Claremont Graduate University thereafter. She taught eighth grade English in Upland, California for eight years, where she also got the opportunity to teach drama, speech and debate, and creative writing. After she got married and moved to West Los Angeles, she taught various levels of English and AVID at Santa Monica High School. She loves spending time with her husband, three children, and her dog. She is also a certified scuba diver and is eager to explore all the diving that San Diego has to offer. Ruth is delighted to join San Dieguito High School Academy and share her love of learning with her students. Go Mustangs!

## *Leona Mullen, English*

Leona Mullen graduated from San Diego State University with a B.A. in English. After graduation, she went on to Pepperdine University to earn her M.A. in Education and single subject teaching credential. Always seeking to learn new skills and seize opportunities, she is currently enrolled in an Educational Leadership program at Cal State Fullerton. After almost a decade of navigating L.A. traffic, and teaching a variety of different courses, Ms. Mullen finally decided to move back to San Diego; she feels fortunate to have found a position at SDUHSD. In her free time Ms. Mullen enjoys reading voraciously, making her own cleaning products, trying new recipes, and completing DIY projects; it is not uncommon to find her in either a bookstore or Home Depot on the weekends. Ms. Mullen is so excited to get to know her students and their families this year.



# More new teachers!

## *Tina Moulton, Science*

Tina Moulton graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a B.S. in Biochemistry. Originally having wanted to be a doctor, she was involved in the undergraduate research program in chemistry at PLNU where she was invited to assist teaching labs. It was during this experience that she fell in love with teaching and decided to pursue becoming a teacher. After graduating, Tina continued at PLNU and is currently working on her Masters in Teaching. While working on her master's, Tina also worked for a local homeschool charter teaching various science classes. In her free time, Tina likes to travel, paddle board, spend time with family/friends, and read. Tina is excited to have the opportunity to be part of the San Dieguito UHSD and help foster the students' learning.

## *Bryony Kinnear, Mathematics*

Bryony Kinnear earned her B.A. in Mathematics/Secondary Education, Teaching Credential, and Masters in Education at UC San Diego. In her free time, Bryony enjoys taking and teaching dance classes, going to the beach, and hiking. As a North County San Diego native and experienced teacher, Bryony looks forward to serving her community by returning to the district she attended and sharing her passion for math with her students. Please feel free to introduce yourself when you see her around campus or in the community.

## *Raquel Blancaflor, Speech Language Pathologist*

Raquel Blancaflor was born in San Diego but lived in Germany for 10 years. She moved back to San Diego in 1997 and went to Morse High School. Raquel got her BA degree in Public Administration from SDSU. After getting her BA, she met her husband and they now have three beautiful daughters. She stayed at home to raise her first two children. Raquel then decided to go back to school to get her MA in Communicative Sciences & Disorders from CSUSM. She is very excited for this new chapter in her life!

## *Annelise Ihle, Spanish*

Annelise Ihle graduated from Saint Cloud State University with a Bachelors of Science in Spanish and Education. During college, she took her lessons beyond the classroom by studying abroad in Chile, granting her additional opportunities to experience the cultures of Perú and Argentina. After graduation, Annelise decided to escape the polar freezes of the Midwest, and moved to sunny San Diego County with her family. She began her teaching career in California as a substitute teacher for San Dieguito UHSD. In her free time, Annelise enjoys drawing and painting, reading, yoga, and beach going with her family and friends. Annelise is very excited to share her enthusiasm for Spanish and demonstrate her support and commitment to the students and families of the San Dieguito community.

## *Tracie Fossum, English*

Tracie Fossum earned her B.A. in Communications with an emphasis in Literature and her teaching credential from Point Loma Nazarene University. She has taught high school English for nine years. She spent her first two years of teaching at Rancho Buena Vista High School before moving to Orange County. She taught in Capistrano Unified School District for seven years, with the last two as English Department Chair for a new high school in San Juan Capistrano. After taking some time away from teaching to be with her three children, Tracie is excited to be back in the classroom. As a resident of Carlsbad and a native San Diegan, Tracie is happy to be part of San Dieguito Academy. She loves spending time with her kids, painting, and running.

## SAN DIEGUITO ACADEMY

### Getting to know your Assistant Principals:

#### Jeanne Jones and Doug Kamon



Pictured (l to r) Leah Ryan-Sonnich, AP secretary; Doug Kamon and Jeanne Jones, Assistant Principals.

High school is a wonderful, exciting time of life, and San Dieguito Academy provides students with multiple opportunities to learn about themselves and their world, take challenging courses, and explore options. The assistant principals want to help each student make the

most of these opportunities during high school. Their goal is to help each student learn from the choices they make and support them in making positive choices for their future.

Your assistant principals, Dr. Jeanne Jones and Mr. Doug Kamon, are here to help support your students in learning. Along with administrative secretary Leah Ryan-Sonnich, their goal is to provide a safe and supportive educational environment. They want each student to feel connected to San Dieguito Academy and to know that they are here for them if they need assistance.

Assistant principals are responsible for students by alpha breakdown. Mr. Kamon has students A-K and Dr. Jones has students L-Z. Their primary responsibility is to support each student in having the best possible year at San Dieguito Academy. Dr. Jones' coordinating duties include Career Pathways, Link Crew, Student Success Services, Peer Tutoring Program, Internship, Academic Council, master schedule, After School Support Program, Music Council, Theatre Arts Council, Homeroom Olympics, Freshman Orientation, and other activities. She is excited to have the opportunity to develop positive programs that affect student learning. Mr. Kamon's many responsibilities include Athletic Council, Technology Committee, ASB, Campus Safety, CAHSEE and standardized testing, textbooks, and other positive activities. If you want to know more about any of these programs, please stop by the APs office. It's important to get involved in your school. Parent voices are vital to SDA, and we welcome you to be a part of the learning community.

## Engineering, Programming & Robotics

The Engineering Principles class is getting ready for a great start this Fall with new machines and software. Students will learn all about engineering and design custom projects with industry computer aided design software. Students will make rapid prototypes from our 3D printer and laser cutting machine and actual parts with our various computer controlled machines located in the machine shop. We will spend about six weeks learning a C based programming language and a new software program called Virtual Worlds that will allow students to program their own robot virtually before building a group robot out of parts. The after school robotics team continues to work year-round and refine their skills. Over the summer they worked on new chassis ideas and improved their current robot. The team will have Monday meetings after school in room 100 which is open to new students. The team is always looking for new adult mentors to help out. Please e-mail [ja-son.berend@sduhsd.net](mailto:ja-son.berend@sduhsd.net) if you have any questions or go to [sdaen-gineering.org](http://sdaen-gineering.org) for further information. Due to recent grants, the class and team have access to a new computer controlled mill, router and plasma cutting machine plus new Tetrax robot kits!

## Student life

### Young Leaders in Health Care

In July, eight current and former SDA students graduated from the Scripps Hospital High School Explorers Internship program. Young Leaders in Health Care students **Kahlo Baniadam, Kira Gaby, Josh Herz, Corin Luckhardt, Max Pendleton, Todd Petrassi, Josh Proal, and Maddy Silverstein** participated in a highly competitive and paid summer internship hosted by Scripps Hospital. During their participation in the Explorers program, students were given the opportunity to conduct hospital rounds at the various Scripps Hospital campuses, and to interact directly with hospital staff and patients. SDA graduate and former YLHC co-President Josh Herz and current SDA student and current YLHC President Max Pendleton were chosen by their peers to speak at the graduation ceremony.



SDA graduates and current students: Kahlo Baniadam, Kira Gaby, Josh Herz, Corin Luckhardt, Max Pendleton, Todd Petrassi, Josh Proal, and Maddy Silverstein graduate from the 2014 Scripps High School Explorers Summer Internship Program. Also pictured are Dr. Andrew Accardi, Scripps YLHC Director, and SDA teacher and YLHC Advisor, Jennifer McCluan.

Young Leaders in Health Care (YLHC) is an outreach program sponsored by Scripps Hospital, Encinitas, and directed by Emergency Room physician Dr. Andrew Accardi. Science teacher Jennifer McCluan sponsors the SDA chapter of YLHC. The YLHC program encourages students from ten local high schools to explore career opportunities, converse with medical professionals, engage in hands-on activities, develop service projects, engage in an annual inter-high school competition, and explore internship opportunities.

On May 22, 2014, the SDA chapter of YLHC won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scripps Hospital Inter High School YLHC Competition. Teams from each of the participating YLHC high schools were assigned topics related to the 2013-14 theme of Disaster Preparedness, and the SDA chapter researched earthquakes and tsunamis for their presentation. The students conducted a Skype interview with Ryan Rockabrand, Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Management, and prepared a public service announcement to educate the public about earthquake and tsunami awareness. For the 2014-15 school year, the YLHC theme and guest speakers will focus on the topic of cancers.

YLHC will be in its 6<sup>th</sup> season for the 2014-15 school year, and continues to actively recruit 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in health care careers. The club meets on campus every Thursday during homeroom in room 50 (location subject to change). Monthly hospital meetings are typically hosted at Scripps the first Thursday of every month from 6-8 p.m. in the hospital conference center. Interested students should visit Ms. McCluan's website <http://teachers.sduhsd.net/jmccluan/>, join the Facebook group (SDA Health Care Essentials & YLHC) or contact the SDA chapter advisor, Ms. McCluan, for details.

## SDA students visited Japan this summer

San Dieguito Academy was selected to participate in the Kakehashi Project this summer. Twenty-three students were treated to an amazing learning experience by the Japanese government. Airfare, hotels, meals, activities, guide, and land transportation were all provided by the Japan Foundation and other agencies.

The purpose of the Kakehashi Project is to promote cultural understanding and mutual respect between young American students and Japanese students. The group visited Tokyo and Okinawa. They were guests of the American Consulate in Okinawa and met with the Consul General and the Japanese Ambassador for Foreign Affairs. They learned about the critical

importance of the US/Japanese relationship and observed diplomacy first-hand and participated in a homestay with Okinawan families and were treated as celebrities at Naha High School! These students will visit with us in November.

Students toured the Tokyo National Museum, the Okinawa Prefectural Museum and Art Museum, Shuri Castle, the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, the Meiji Shrine and the Edo-Tokyo Museum. They visited the National Diet Building in Tokyo (Japan's Congress) and had an exceptional opportunity to learn about the devastation of war and the importance of peace when they met with the curator of the Peace Museum in Okinawa and toured Peace Memorial Park.



Our students conducted themselves with dignity and grace. This trip will have a lasting impact on our students.

## Journalism students win awards in Harvard Crimson's journalism contest

Writers for *The Mustang* won four awards in the Harvard Crimson's first high school journalism contest in June. **Lily LeVesseur**, a 2014 graduate, was named best columnist for the paper's surfer vs. skater feature, a fake competition in which contestants are asked nonsensical questions so that Lily can mock them in good humor. The Crimson judges called the column "odd and eccentric (in a good way) – and funny."

2014 graduate **Roya Chagnon** won first place for her two-page, color illustration of the 90s and 100s buildings that will be torn down to make way for the campus renovation. Senior **Elise Echeverria's** reporting on drug use at the Coachella music festival was named the fourth best news story. "The story does a great job of relating an outside issue to your audience," the judges said. And, finally, 2014 graduate **Elizabeth Tarangelo** won fifth place for her news story about the risks to teenagers associated with using social media.

Earlier in the semester, *The Mustang* was named the sixth best tabloid newspaper in the country in the National Scholastic Press Association's high school newspaper spring competition. *The Mustang's* annual best of the arts review was recognized by the NSPA as the eighth best special edition put out by a high school.

Members of *The Mustang* staff are looking forward to more national and local competitions this school year. Check out copies of the paper online and updated news at [www.sdamustang.com](http://www.sdamustang.com).



## Welcome Athletic Director Justin Conn

My name is Justin Conn, and I will be the new Athletic Director at San Dieguito Academy as of Fall 2014. While this is a new position for me, I am certainly not new to SDA or SDA sports. For the past 8 years, I have been a classroom teacher - teaching anything from English 9 to AP English Language. In addition, I began work last year as a Teacher on Special Assignment for the district, to assist with some changes in curriculum and instruction district-wide. I will continue that work this year in addition to my AD duties.



Outside of the school day, I have been the Head Track and Field coach for six years, and have assisted Gordy Haskett with our Cross Country program for about the same amount of time. Moving in to the Athletic Director role is a natural transition because of my passion for SDA athletics. I believe our program, as a whole, has shown tremendous growth over the past few years, and I plan to work as a catalyst to take SDA athletics to a new level.

In my free time, I spend as much time as possible with my wife Jessica – who currently teaches third grade at Ocean Knoll – and my two little ones, Emily (3) and Eliot (4). My wife and I are passionate about travel and spending time in the water – be it ocean, river, lake, or pool.

If you need to reach me with questions about SDA athletics, you can call me at (760) 753-1121 ext. 5007 (Bond, James Bond!), or shoot me an email at [Justin.conn@sduhsd.net](mailto:Justin.conn@sduhsd.net). I look forward to working with your student-athletes this year, and for many years to come!



## Backstage at the Liggett Theater

SDA Theatre students ended last school year with six stellar performances of *HONK! The Musical*. They are ready and anxious for what the new school year will bring. All SDA students are encouraged to join the theatre department. We are always looking for talented actors, designers, and technicians. Interested students are encouraged to attend Thespian meetings which are every Tuesday, during lunch, in the PAC Theater. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2.

Drama Production students will perform two full length productions

during the fall semester, one in October and the other in January. An additional after-school production will be performed in November. Auditions are open to ALL SDA students and will take place in the Clayton Liggett Theater from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9 and Thursday, September 10.

If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Siers in the Performing Arts Center or email [stephanie.siers@sduhsd.net](mailto:stephanie.siers@sduhsd.net). Check out the Theatre Department link on the SDA website for show dates and the latest information.



Cast, crew, and musicians of *Honk!* on closing night.

## Music Notes



The 2014-2015 school year is right around the corner, and we are excited about another great year of music activities at SDA! This year's ensembles and course offerings are as follows: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, MIDI Composition/Recording Arts, and Instrumental Music. We will be having several performances throughout the year, so be sure to check out our performance calendar at [sdamusic.org](http://sdamusic.org).

The Jazz Band will most likely rehearse on Wednesday evenings this year, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please be sure to check the weekly school bulletin for audition information. Also, students who are interested in the Jazz Band should visit Mr. Wuertz for audition music and further information regarding auditions.

On an exciting note, we held our first-ever Coastal Music Camp this summer at SDA. This camp was designed for musicians from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We had 55 students participate in the camp, including 15 high school mentors (pictured left). We had a blast and look forward to hosting the camp again next year!

If you have questions about the SDA Music Program, please don't hesitate to contact Jeremy Wuertz at [Jeremy.wuertz@sduhsd.net](mailto:Jeremy.wuertz@sduhsd.net), or by phone at (760) 753-1121, extension 5293.

## Counseling Corner

### Counselors:

**Ms. Ann Nebolon**, A-G, W, ext. 5017

**Mr. Duncan Brown**, H-P, ext. 5016

**Ms. Vicki deJesús**, Q-V, X-Y, EL/  
AVID, ext. 5015

### Counseling Secretary:

**Ms. Diane Caron**, ext. 5076



Pictured (l to r): Vicki deJesús, Jessica Colt (counseling intern), Diane Caron, Duncan Brown, Ann Nebolon

Our goal as counselors is to help students make appropriate choices about all areas of their lives. We are happy to help in any way needed. We are available for students to drop-in before or after school and at lunch. Parents can make appointments by calling or emailing the office. And of course you can call or email us with any questions or concerns.

### Get Connected! Activate your Naviance Account

The counseling department strives to provide helpful and pertinent information to students and families about the post high school planning process. Our biggest recommendation is activating and registering your Naviance accounts using home or work email addresses. Once you activate your Naviance account, counselors can directly email you timely information that allows students and parents to access invaluable resources available only to SDA students and families. We use Naviance as a support tool to our counseling services. We also meet with all grades in classroom presentations. These presentations are followed by a Naviance homeroom workshop and supported by the Naviance resources.

- ♦ **Seniors:** College Applications/Financial Aid and Scholarship Resources/Post High School Planning. CSU/UC application support during homeroom in October-November.
- ♦ **Juniors:** College Search and Post High School Preparation
- ♦ **Sophomores:** Career Assessment/Connecting with the Community and Planning
- ♦ **Freshmen:** Personality Assessment and Four Year Planning

### How do you activate your Naviance Account and watch the Overview Video?

Our counseling webpage located on the school website: [sd.sduhsd.net](http://sd.sduhsd.net) provides a step-by-step Parent Activation Power Point Presentation and a Naviance Overview Video to assist with the activation process. Diane Caron, Counseling Secretary, can address your questions with this process at [diane.caron@sduhsd.net](mailto:diane.caron@sduhsd.net) or extension 5076.

### What is Naviance?

SDA students and families have access to Family Connection from Naviance, a Web-based service designed especially for students and families to assist and enhance the college preparation process. Family Connection is a comprehensive management tool that allows students and families access to all necessary college planning components in one centralized location.

Family Connection will allow you to:

- **Get involved in the planning and advising process** – Build a résumé, complete on-line surveys, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers.
- **Research colleges** – Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past.
- **Sign up for college visits** – Find out which colleges are visiting our school and sign up to attend those sessions.



## College Information Sessions

Our annual grade level **College Information Sessions** will be held at **Back to School Night, September 17, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.** These sessions are geared for parents to learn what their students need to know and be doing at each grade level in preparation for high school and beyond.

### Freshmen/Sophomores:

Graduation and A-G college requirements, course selection and preparation for higher education, college option overview, school resources, Naviance.

### Juniors:

Preparing for college, A-G requirements, the college search, testing, financial aid/scholarships, Naviance.

### Seniors:

College process, A-G requirements, selecting colleges, applying to colleges, testing, financial aid/scholarships, Naviance.



## To do list for students and parents

### Seniors:

Register online for the **ACT and/or SAT tests. Take the tests by December.** List of test dates on the counseling website.

**11/30, midnight:** UC/CSU application deadline

**1/29, 6:00 p.m.:** Financial Aid Night, library

### Grades 9-11:

**Take the PSAT on October 15** - \$23 contribution for the PSAT to the finance office during lunch.

Check out the Counseling webpage often: [sd.sduhsd.net](http://sd.sduhsd.net) and click Counseling.



## Student Activities at SDA



In early August, the San Dieguito Academy ASB class went to Palm Springs for a summer leadership retreat (pictured). There were 37 students and 7 teacher/staff chaperones that attended. The students acquired leadership skills and training to take back to school as they facilitate and run the leadership class this fall. Included in the 37 students that attended were the student body executive officers: **Austin Keillor**, President; **Bo Templin**, Vice President; **Dustin Sleet**, Treasurer; **Kenedy Anderson**, Secretary, and **Ariele Michaelis** and **Jaycelin Bert**, School Board Reps.

We are excited about the upcoming school year and hope to serve the school and student body in ways that will build upon the proud and unique atmosphere of the Academy. Above all, our mission is to create school activities and events so that all of our student body will feel connected and valued at school.

It is not too late for students to purchase an ASB sticker if they haven't already done so at Taking Care of Business Days. With the \$45.00 ASB sticker, students receive a free student planner, free SDA t-shirt, and a \$10 discount on their yearbook. The ASB sticker also allows the student to receive discounts on school events, such as dances, battle of the bands, Winter Formal, Talent show, Prom, and basketball games.

### Upcoming First Quarter school activities:

**Welcome Back Dance**, September 19, 7:30-10:30 pm, outside of library

**3 x 3 Soccer**, September 22-26, lunch

**Water Day**, October 1, lunch

**Club Fair**, October 3, lunch

**Homecoming Week**, October 20-24

**Battle of the Bands**, October 23-November 7, lunch auditions, amphitheater

**Homecoming Dance**, October 24, 7:30-10:30 pm, gym

**Blood Drive**, November 4, 8-1:30 pm, gym

**Flag Football Tournament**, November 7, after school

**Battle of the Bands Final**, November 20, 6:30 pm, gym

**Adopt a Family Program**, Nov.17-Dec. 16 in homerooms

**Ping Pong Tournament**, December 1-5, lunch, front of gym

**Mustang Bazaar**, December 11, lunch

**Student Body Elections**, December 12-16

## From the SDA Foundation

Dear SDA Parents,

Welcome back to SDA, and for our new parents, welcome to SDA! I hope that you had a good summer and that your students are ready for another year of learning at SDA. You and I know they will find some days challenging and exciting and other days boring and dreary. The important thing is that they get an education that prepares them for life after high school. The SDA Foundation enhances their education by supporting the unique culture and quality programs at San Dieguito High School Academy.



The students at SDA have a culture of acceptance and camaraderie, which is a vital part of their learning environment. For example, last year a group of students applied for a Foundation grant to restart CommUnity Day. They were concerned about cliques forming on campus. They used our grant to organize an all-day event to make students more aware of each other and strengthen their relationships with each other. The Foundation looks forward to supporting CommUnity Day again this year.

In addition to supporting SDA's unique culture, the Foundation supports a Shared Vision program with Principal Horning, enrichment programs, senior scholarships, and mini-grants. Some of our programs include the Writing Lab, tutoring, extended library hours, Naviance college research software, Studio SDA, and the Mosaic Café. The mini-grants are open to any good idea from the teachers, students, or parents. We also provide supplemental funds for basic classroom supplies and equipment.

We develop these programs by listening to you. Last year's survey of parents and staff led us to create two new long term programs. We are working with Tim Hornig to provide more support for the guidance counselors and more opportunities for teachers to enhance their skills. We will tell you more about these new programs next spring.

To continue providing this broad support, **we need your help**. We are asking every family to donate any amount they can to the General Fund, and our suggested donation is \$250. Your gift will help us provide an outstanding educational experience for our children.

**We also ask you to volunteer your valuable time and expertise.** In return, I can promise that you will have fun doing good work, make new friends, and nurture SDA's unique culture. You can chaperone a student dance, be an academic or athletic team parent, participate with the Foundation board or councils, or thank our terrific faculty through our hospitality events. If you aren't sure how to help, please ask. Right now, we are looking for volunteers to help with our **fall fundraiser coming up on Saturday, November 1**.

As the new President of the SDA Foundation, I look forward to meeting you, and I welcome your ideas and questions. SDA is a great school with a unique culture – one that develops involved and compassionate students prepared for their future. Please join us in supporting them.

Sincerely,

*Patrick Mock, President - SDA Foundation*







## San Dieguito HS Academy

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**Parents:**  
**You're invited!**  
**Don't miss these important events.**

### College Information Meetings

(Grade-level specific)

Wednesday, September 17, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

The counseling staff will be conducting College Information Meetings Wednesday, September 17 at 5 p.m. right before Back-To-School Night begins. The meetings are designed to share a wide variety of college related information specific to each grade level. Each counselor will present important timely information for the parents and families of students in the 9th/10th grades, 11th grade, and 12th grade. While counselors share information about the college admissions process with students throughout the school year, this special presentation is designed to educate parents on the sometimes overwhelming college preparation process. Be prepared to receive a lot of information and as always, bring all of your questions.

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grades, Gym

11<sup>th</sup> grade, Liggett Theater

12<sup>th</sup> grade, Library

#### Year One P.E. online course preview

Wednesday, September 17

5:30 p.m., Room 42

This is an opportunity for parents to preview the online component of Year One P.E.

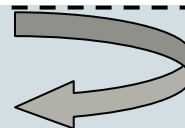
#### Back-to-School Night

Wednesday, September 17

6:00 p.m.

Feel the Academy spirit!  
Meet fellow parents and visit your  
student's classes and meet our  
wonderful teachers.

## Valuables at school



SDA provides a safe learning environment, yet — like any small community — some individuals may choose to take advantage of others. Make sure that your child takes the following important precautions to protect their valuable possessions:

- Do not bring valuables to school. *If you do, you bring them at your own risk.* The school is not responsible for lost or stolen iPods, cell phones, etc.
- Take responsibility for your possessions. Do not leave them unattended in an unlocked classroom, in an abandoned backpack, or in any situation where you cannot see them.

- Take precautions in the locker room. Be sure all valuables are locked securely inside a locker. Double-check the lock on the locker. After closing it tightly, spin the dial a bit.
- Engrave your name on electronic devices.
- Don't bring large amounts of cash to school.

*By taking these few precautions, your valuables will remain safely in your possession.*