

Steele Canyon PTO
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STEELE CANYON PTO PAW PRINTS

Vol 3 March 2007



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From the Principal

March 2007

Dear Steele Canyon Parents and Guardians:

I hope the New Year and new term have both started well for you and your student(s). Steele Canyon has made great progress on some of our important facility needs. After many years, our Wrestling Room finally has padding on its walls and additional padding was also added to the gym for safety purposes. By the time you read this, I expect that our Softball Complex will be completed with dugouts, snack bar, storage, and a team room in place. Improvements to the Baseball facilities have also been completed. These improvements include new concrete, fencing, and electrical.

California schools are heading into testing season. The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) will be administered to all 10th graders on March 20 and 21. Typically our sophomores score at or near the top within the District on the CAHSEE. The CAHSEE is a high stakes exam for sophomores, so please encourage your student to do their best. In April we will begin STAR Testing for all 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. You will find the testing schedule elsewhere in the newsletter. Over the past several years SCHS's scores have been improving and we hope to continue that trend. The school's successes and improvements are a reflection of hard work and dedication by Steele Canyon staff, parents, and especially our students. We are all working toward continuous improvement and we are getting better each year.

As you know, the Steele Canyon Charter Petition was approved by the GUHSD Governing Board. The Steele Canyon Charter High School will officially begin July 1, 2007. With Steele Canyon becoming a charter school, there is a renewed excitement on campus. The charter will also bring about some changes. It is with regret that I inform you that after much emotion, thought, and discussion, the SCHS administrative team of Andrea Arrieta, Jeff Meredith, Randy Montesanto and I, have each decided to remain with the District as Steele Canyon becomes a Charter High School. We intend to continue to provide service and leadership here at SCHS through June 2007. We enjoy working here with you and your students and look forward to the coming months together.

Gary Schwartzwald
Principal



Parent On-Line Survey Request

Steele Canyon High School requests your participation in an online parent survey. The survey is designed to gather information about parents' perceptions of our schools' academic programs. Information gathered from the survey will also assist in the development of a school and district parent involvement plan. The online survey can be accessed at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=478232832537>. The survey is available beginning Thursday, February 1, and will close on Friday, March 16. Please contact Andrea Arrieta if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Submitted by Andrea Arrieta, Assistant Principal

Advanced Placement Testing

Advanced Placement Testing time will be here before you know it. The cost for each test is \$83.00 and can be ordered through the Steele Canyon web site, <http://schs.guhsd.net>, or the Finance Office. Click on ASB and follow the route to the test that your student needs to take. The ordering is easy, and Visa and Mastercard are accepted. There will be no fee reduction for multiple test takers as our AP account was absorbed by these discounts last year. As always, students who qualify for free or reduced lunch should see Mr. Montesanto to ensure a lower fee for the test. If you think you may qualify for a discount, see Mr. Montesanto for possible fee reductions based on family income. The final date of signing up for each test and full payment is March 30, 2007. You can also sign up and pay in person at the Finance Office.

Submitted by Randy Montesanto, Assistant Principal

PTO News Bites for Students and Their Families

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2007: It's time to mark your calendars and save the date of May 12th. That's the day of the Senior Prom. Don't plan on anything for that day except to enjoy yourself at this romantic, once-in-a-life-time event.

If you have a topic that you would like to see included in this newsletter, email us at atinfo@steelecanyonpto.net.

Here are some websites you might find helpful for school and PTO information:

STEELE CANYON HIGH SCHOOL
<http://schs.guhsd.net/index.htm>

STEELE CANYON PTO WEBSITE
<http://www.steelecanyonpto.net/>

Do You Get The PTO eNews - Update? The PTO sends out an e-News Update on a regular basis to receive the update. Just e-mail us at info@steelecanyonpto.net and ask to be added to the list. Please include your student's name and grade.

Parental Alert to Non-School Sponsored Trips and Events

Parents, please be aware that a group of students are putting together their own "Grad Night" to occur June 2nd at the Ramada Inn in Mission Valley. Also, an after-graduation rave like party, on June 7th, is being planned at the Hilton Hotel. Many junior and senior high school students in our area have been contacted via a computer website and flyers being handed out by seniors. Information is also being disseminated to our students via myspace.com. We would like to inform you that this is not a school sponsored activity, and that there could be alcohol and drugs at this non school sponsored event.

With the close of the school year, comes the opportunity for travel companies to take advantage of our students and their senior year. Please be aware that there are several trips and events that will occur at the end of the year that appear to be sponsored by the school but are not. Also, every year, travel agencies will send out flyers with the Steele Canyon name attached recommending trips to Mexico as Senior Graduation trips. Steele Canyon High School and the Grossmont District do not support nor endorse trips of this nature. These trips are usually held in Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas and Cancun. While they are planned by legitimate tour companies, they turn out to be "drunk fests" as the students are unsupervised and allowed to do as they please in a place where the drinking age is 18. If you ever have a doubt as to the legitimacy of an event, ask your student who is the Chaperone from the school and then contact that person. More likely than not, they will not be able to come up with a name and that should be your first red flag.

Submitted by Randy Montesanto & Andrea Arrieta,
Assistant Principals

Graduation 2007

Graduation will be held on Thursday, June 7th, at 6:00pm in the Steele Canyon stadium. The ceremony will start on time so please be prompt. There will be no limit on the number of guests a student may have at graduation. Seating capacity is about 4,000; we rent 2,000 chairs for the track. As in the past, we will have over 80 handicapped parking spaces reserved near the stadium and a drop off area for the handicapped will be available at the entrance to the stadium. The ceremony generally lasts about 75-90 minutes. Students must attend the mandatory graduation practice that morning at 10:00am as a requirement to participate in the ceremony.

Submitted by Randy Montesanto

Tentative STAR Testing

MONDAY APRIL 23	TUESDAY APRIL 24	WEDNESDAY APRIL 25
Block 1 - 66 min. 7:30 - 8:36	Block 1 - 90 min. 7:30 - 9:00	Block 3 - 90 min. 7:30 - 9:00
Break - 6 min. 8:36 - 8:42	Break - 10 min. 9:00 - 9:10	Break - 10 min. 9:00 - 9:10
Block 2 - 66 min. 8:42 - 9:48	Block 00 - CST LANG PART 1	Block 00 - CST MATH PART 1
Break - 15 min. 9:48 - 10:03	90 min. Test 9:10 - 10:40	90 min. Test 9:10 - 10:40
Cougar Class 10:03 - 11:23	Break - 10 min. 10:40 - 10:50	Break - 10 min. 10:40 - 10:50
Break - 7 min. 11:23 - 11:30	Block 00 - CST LANG PART 2	Block 00 - CST MATH PART 2
Block 3 - 66 min. 11:30 - 12:36	100 min. Test 10:50 - 12:30	100 min. Test 10:50 - 12:30
Lunch - 12:36 - 1:23	Lunch - 30 min. 12:30 - 1:00	Lunch - 30 min. 12:30 - 1:00
Passing - 6 min. 1:23 - 1:29	Passing - 6 min. 1:00 - 1:06	Passing - 6 min. 1:00 - 1:06
Block 4 - 66 min. 1:29 - 2:35	Block 2 - 89 min. 1:06 - 2:35	Block 4 - 89 min. 1:06 - 2:35

80 min. Cougar Day

THURSDAY APRIL 26	FRIDAY APRIL 27
Block 1 - 43 min. 7:30 - 8:13	Block 1 - 43 min. 7:30 - 8:13
Passing - 6 min. 8:13 - 8:19	Passing - 6 min. 8:13 - 8:19
Block 2 - 47 min. 8:19 - 9:06	Block 2 - 47 min. 8:19 - 9:06
Passing - 6 min. 9:06 - 9:12	Passing - 6 min. 9:06 - 9:12
Block 00 - CST SCIENCE PART 1	NCLB SCIENCE PART 2
60 min. Test 9:12 - 10:12	10th GRADE ONLY
Break - 10 min. 10:12 - 10:22	60 min. Test 9:12 - 10:12
Block 00 CST SCIENCE PART 2	Break - 10 min. 10:12 - 10:22
60 min. Test 10:22 - 11:22	Block 00 - CST HISTORY PART 1
Break - 5 min. 11:22 - 11:27	10th & 11th GRADE ONLY
NCLB SCIENCE PART 1	60 min. Test 11:27 - 12:27
10th GRADE ONLY	Passing - 6 min. 12:27 - 12:33
60 min. Test 11:27 - 12:27	Block 3 - 43 min. 12:33 - 1:16
Passing - 6 min. 12:27 - 12:33	Lunch 30 min. 1:16 - 1:46
Block 3 - 43 min. 12:33 - 1:16	Passing 6 min. 1:46 - 1:52
Lunch 30 min. 1:16 - 1:46	Block 4 - 43 min. 1:52 - 2:35
Passing 6 min. 1:46 - 1:52	
Block 4 - 43 min. 1:52 - 2:35	

Summer School 2007

The emphasis of remediation for failed courses, and assistance in passing the California High School Exit Exam, will continue to be the focus of summer school at Steele Canyon this summer. Summer school session 1 starts on June 18 and will run for 3 weeks through July 6th. The first session will start at 7:30am and run till 12:30pm each day. There will be no school July 4th which falls on a Wednesday. The second session will start on July 9th and run through July 27th. The second session will start at 7:30am and go till 12:15pm. Students who failed Humanities this school year can plan on attending both sessions to make up the 10 units of lost credit. Enrichment courses which might not be offered this year: summer weight training, band camp and AP prep courses. Also, students will not have the opportunity to move ahead in any course for enrichment.

Submitted by by Randy Montesanto,
Assistant Principal

Side Line Footage



Game announcer and clock operator are a few jobs that these men do with pride. Tom Parr, Mike Ritter, Jason Lee and Dominic Dirksen work behind the scenes and on the side lines during Cougar football season.

Message from the PTO Board

It is amazing how fast this year has gone by. We are already looking forward to next year when Steele Canyon re-opens as a Charter School. The Charter Board has adopted the 2007/2008 school calendar. The upcoming school year will start on Thursday, August 16, 2007. All information and updates regarding the charter school can be found at www.steelecanyoncharter.net.

Parents, staff and students that make up the Principal Selection Committee have worked countless hours interviewing candidates interested in becoming Steele Canyon's new principal. Within the next few weeks, the Committee will forward their top 3 or 4 candidates to the Steele Canyon School Board. The final decision will be made during the March Board meeting.

Parent groups, teachers, administration and students are an important component in the education and success of our students. Numerous studies have shown that where parent involvement is high, schools are more successful and students have higher grades and test scores. As Steele Canyon's charter moves forward, parents have the opportunity to be a part of this crucial process. Get involved in your students education by attending your school board meetings. Together let's build the foundation that will make Steele Canyon the shining star of East County.

PTO Nominating Committee

The Steele Canyon PTO Nominating Committee was formed at the January 2007 General Meeting for the purpose of preparing a slate of PTO Officers for the 2007/2008 school year. If you are interested in serving on next year's Board please contact Mary Timm, Parliamentarian, at marytimm@cox.net.

The Steele Canyon PTO does not control and cannot guarantee the relevance, timeliness, or accuracy of the material provided by other agencies or organizations, nor does the Steele Canyon PTO endorse other agencies or organizations, their views, products or services.



New Landscaping for the Gym Entrance

Several people have commented on the fact that the trees in the front of the gym have recently been removed. Many are concerned that the lack of these trees will result in an institutional and barren façade. Rest assured there is a plan in the works that will provide Steele Canyon with an attractive and landscaped entrance to the gym that will far surpass the previous one.

Unfortunately, the company that originally landscaped Steele Canyon did not consider how the trees and plants would perform in future years. Deciduous trees with shallow root systems were planted resulting in an unattractive winter barrenness and damage to the sidewalks. In an effort to stop the damage and provide a more attractive exterior landscape, it was decided to remove these trees and replace them with mature evergreens with deeper root systems.

The plan is to elicit the help of a landscape architect to provide conceptual ideas for a new aesthetically pleasing and functional entrance to the gym. Providing funding is available and a plan can be finalized in a timely manner, the goal is to have the new landscape in place by June 2007, in time for graduation. We will consider any and all ideas and suggestions from staff, students and parents and will be meeting in late February to present ideas and establish a work plan. Look for meeting date and time in the bulletin or contact Dennis Trachtenberg, dtrachtenberg@guhdsd.net, (619) 660-7100, for more information.

Submitted by Dennis Trachtenberg

SCHS Athletic Booster Club Scholarship

The Booster Club will be offering \$1,000 scholarships to one female and one male Scholar Athlete. Applications can be picked up in the counseling office. Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA, a completed application and a recommendation by one of their SCHS coaches. Application deadline is March 30, 2007. The winners will be notified at the Senior Awards Ceremony in May.

For more information about our Booster Club or to join, please visit our website www.booster.schigh.com

Grad Night 2007

Steele Canyon High School PTO and a committee of Senior Parents are planning an evening for our graduating seniors that they will remember for years to come. Grad Night 2007 will be held at the Joan Kroc Center. Students will be transported to and from the Center via buses directly from Steele Canyon High School. On graduation night, Thursday, June 7, 2007, students must arrive at Steele Canyon High School at 10pm in order to be transported. Students may attend Grad Night 2007 ONLY if they ride the buses that we are providing for them! The event will begin at 11pm and will end at 6am Friday, June 8th. Buses will arrive back at SCHS at 6:30am.

The PTO and Grad Night 2007 Committee will provide our Seniors with a safe, alcohol- & drug-free environment where they can enjoy their last official night together with continuous activities. Some of the planned activities are: DJ, casino games, ice skating, broomball, hypnotist, caricatures, photo booth and much more. Unlimited food & beverages, including breakfast, will be provided. And last, but not least, we will have raffle prizes galore!!!

Grad Night 2007 packets can be picked-up at the Finance Office. They need to be filled out by students & parents and then returned with a deposit of \$25.00. The total cost of Grad Night 2007 is \$75.00; the balance of \$50 must be paid in full by the end of May. Any questions please e-mail or call either co-chair:

Colleen Llanos 749-0896 cllanos@cox.net
Beverly Bruder 669-5311 mbruder@pacbell.net

COUGAR ASB NEWS

As the winter season comes to a close, it seems to bring a myriad of activities for the student body. Not only are our sports programs in full swing, we recently hosted the district Super Spirit Night, where 9 of our district schools came and competed against each other in various different spirit activities. For the second year in a row, our Cougars brought home the trophy, proving once again that even though we are the youngest school, we do have the most spirit! Congrats to all those who attended, and we hope to see you out there again next year as we defend our title again.

Looking back at our annual Winter Formal Dance at SDSU's Montezuma Hall, hosted by the ASB, we are proud to announce that we shattered previous attendance records, as more than 720 students attended and enjoyed the festivities. At our Winter Formal Fashion Show, many students and parents received some wonderful gifts. Some of our very dedicated students showed off fashions from local formal retail and rental shops. We look forward to making this event an annual tradition as well.

Look for our upcoming events in the coming months such as our first ever Battle of the Bands, Sadie Hawkins Dance, and Air Bands, to name a few. We look forward to continuing service to our incredible student body, and always look for helpful input to better the programs and activities that we offer our students. Rah Rah Cougars!

Submitted by Drew Stewart, SCHS ASB Advisor

Senior Parent Meeting

There will be a meeting on Monday, April 30th at 6:00pm in the Theatre to discuss with parents all of the end of year activities from the school's standpoint. The information is designed for parents in a format of: "What Parents Need to Know About the End of the Year." Please plan on attending this very informational and enlightening meeting. The meeting will last approximately 60-90 minutes.

Submitted by Randy Montesanto,
Assistant Principal

STAR Testing & Senior Exhibitions

There will be a meeting on Monday, April 30th at 6:00pm in the Theatre to discuss with parents all of the end of year activities from the school's standpoint. The information is designed for parents in a format of: "What Parents Need to Know About the End of the Year." Please plan on attending this very informational and enlightening meeting. The meeting will last approximately 60-90 minutes.

Submitted by Randy Montesanto,
Assistant Principal

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

Save the Date

Our 4th Annual Spring Fundraiser will be **May 5th, 2007**

Steele Canyon Golf Course

Golf Tournament, Dinner, Silent and Live Auction
Live Auction Preview Items

Reserved Seats for 2007 Graduation Ceremony
Reserved Seats at all 2007 home football games

Last year our event raised over \$50,000 to support our athletic teams and programs. This year we are hoping to raise even more with the proceeds going to support facilities improvements as well as athletic teams. Please join us and enjoy an evening of fun with fellow parents and Steele Canyon coaches and staff. If you have items you would like to donate for our Silent or Live Auctions, please contact Bev Bruder at 669-5311. Every item is welcome and we especially need large items such as airline tickets, weekend trips to your cabin, golf outings, etc. No item is too large or small!!!

For more information about our Booster Club or to join, please visit our website: www.booster.schigh.com

Next Meeting is Tuesday, March 13th 7:00 p.m.
Teacher Lounge

If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact Susan Gillespie at 579-6905