

THE DRUMBEAT



El Cajon Valley High School Community Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 1

FALL 2006

Principal's Message

~ Paul Dautremont

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Welcome back for the 2006-2007 school year. I hope that you and your family had a nice summer break. I know that this summer we had many students take summer school with nearly 1200 students enrolling in Session 1 and over 700 in Session 2. Once again, we are anticipating a very busy and productive school year.

This year ECV will be going through the WASC Accreditation process. During WASC, which will include input from parents, students, staff and the community, we will analyze our programs from differing perspectives with respect to critical academic needs, expected schoolwide learning results and WASC/California Department of Education criteria. I am presently seeking parents and community members who are interested in serving on committees to look at our programs. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Gerry at 401-4712.

I want to share with you two new programs that will be in place this year to assist us in keeping you informed of your student's academic progress. First, you will now be receiving notification home if your student is earning a D or F grade after the 2nd and 6th week of each quarter. This is in addition to the regular four-week progress report. The intent of this report is to notify parents in a timely enough manner to allow for intervention. Second, in the next few weeks you will be receiving information about an exciting and innovative student information system called the Parent Portal, developed by the Grossmont Union High School District. The Parent Portal is a web-based system that will allow parents to monitor their student's grades, homework and attendance at any time from a computer with Internet access.

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Construction on our campus through the Proposition H bond measure is continuing. Presently, work crews are finishing up a project that will make our main quad area a much more pleasant place for students to eat lunch and to hang out. These upgrades include new concrete, seating areas, walking paths, grass, shade trees, shrubbery and irrigation. Within the next couple of months a permanent shade structure will be erected that will protect students against both the sun and the rain. Before winter break, work crews are also expected to begin refurbishing the first of our classrooms. Some of the things included will be new utilities, paint, flooring, windows, air conditioning and roofing.

Finally, I would like to invite each and every parent to this year's Back to School Night. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, September 26th. The PTSA will begin serving dinner at 5 p.m. and we will start our program at 6:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium. I hope to see you there. If ever I may be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at 401-4711 or pdautrem@guhdsd.net.

Sincerely,

Paul Dautremont
Principal



El Cajon Valley High School
Parent Teacher Student Association
Proudly Presents

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
BARBECUE !!!!!**

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

5:00 – 6:15 p.m.

Quad Area

Before the Open House at 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$3.00

If you join PTSA that night or have already joined,
your meal will be FREE!

(One meal per membership)

Basic Memberships Start at \$7.00

GET INVOLVED
YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

See Back Page For More Information about Back to School Night

ECVHS Lockout Policy 2006-2007

In an effort to encourage punctuality, ECVHS will be enforcing lockout. Any student who is not in his/her assigned area when the bell rings will be taken to lockout for the remainder of the period. Students will be in lockout with a certificated teacher and will be given assignments to complete. Students who do not complete their work will receive disciplinary action. There will be no eating, sleeping, cell phones, or use of electronic devices in lockout.

Students in lockout will be coded with an "L." Students arriving late to school with a note will receive an excused tardy (less than 20 minutes late), or an excused period absence (more than 20 minutes late) and will be sent to class. If a student is more than 20 minutes late and does not have an excuse, that student will be coded with a "P" (period truant) and sent to lockout. Parents are automatically notified by phone (via the district phone master system) that evening if a student receives an "L" or a "P."

If a student accumulates three (3) lockouts, that student will receive a detention. If a student accumulates five (5) lockouts, this will be viewed as an act of defiance, and that student may be suspended from school.

Attendance Alert!

The following dates will be available for your student to make up any excused absences during the first quarter of school. Students must sign up at the attendance office at least one day prior to each scheduled date.

Wednesday, September 20	Saturday, September 23	Wednesday, September 27	Saturday, September 30
Wednesday, October 4	Saturday, October 7	Wednesday, October 11	Saturday, October 14
Tuesday, October 17			

- Tuesday and Wednesday dates are for excused period make-ups only and will run from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday dates are for all-day excused make-ups only and will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

HEALTH NEWS

CHRONIC HEALTH PROBLEMS

If you have a student with a chronic health or physical problem, do you know that the school district provides a health liaison to assist these students? If your student has a health problem such as severe and chronic asthma, diabetes, Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, cystic fibrosis, cancer, etc., he or she may qualify for these liaison services and accommodations appropriate to your student's specific needs. For further information, please call the district liaison for ECVHS, Mrs. Terry Underwood directly at 401-4705, or at the general office number, 401-4700.

GEAR UP

GEAR UP Serves 9th and 10th Graders

The GEAR UP program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is now serving both ninth and tenth graders by providing families with information about options after high school, how to be successful in school, and how parents can help their children academically. We are now located in the Career Center and have a new number. If you would like more information, please contact Ms. Craig and Ms. Gomez at 401-4749.

GEAR UP Family FRIEND Program

A new program has been started by GEAR UP for ninth grade families. The Family FRIEND (Family Resources, Information, Education, Networking, and Dialogue) program will be calling all the ninth grade parents to set up a home visit or a visit in the Family Resource Center. GEAR UP wants to provide you with information about El Cajon Valley High School, colleges, financial aid and community resources. **We are still looking to hire additional parents to be trained as FRIENDS. The position is a temporary one, paying \$10 an hour, and will last 4-6 weeks in the fall and 4-6 weeks in the spring.** We will work around your schedule. We especially need any parents who speak languages other than English. For more information, call GEAR UP at 401-4749.

AVID NEWS

\$217,650 was given out to senior students at El Cajon Valley's Senior Awards night this past June, and 44% of that total—\$95,200—went to AVID Seniors! AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a tremendous program, supporting students in their efforts to attend four-year universities. AVID teachers do a terrific job of encouraging students to apply for scholarships and other forms of financial aid to make their college dreams a reality. GO AVID!

Legend Yearbook News Alert!

Last year's Legend yearbook placed 1st again at the Del Mar Fair! That's three years in a row!

All four grade levels of students, as well as staff members, should invest early in the 2006-2007 Legend yearbook. The starting cost is \$90 for the months of August, September, and the first week of October. Prices will immediately rise to \$100 or higher and elevate in the spring to \$150. \$200 could possibly be the end-of-the-year price for those waiting until the last minute! Please get yours early, and buy NOW! You can save at least \$60 by buying today! See Linda Frieze in Finance for details.

Seniors need to have senior pictures taken for the yearbook at Boyd Anderson in Santee immediately. Please call (619) 444-1184 for an appointment. Appointments close very quickly. Don't miss this opportunity to have your son or daughter's senior photo placed in this year's Legend yearbook for free!!

Personal ads and business ads can be purchased by contacting Wayne Weightman in room 416. Checks must be made out to ECVHS for \$200 per black and white personal ad page and \$250 per page for business ads. All artwork from businesses must be camera-ready. First come, first served.

The 2006-2007 Legend Staff



Welcome to El Cajon Valley High School for the year 2006-07. Last year, our school paper the Smoke Signal had an amazing year with dedicated and motivated editors and staff writers. They met every deadline and collaborated on this task to get done what they needed, and to make it happen. There were some difficulties along the way, but the crucial need to succeed always came first, regardless of how tough it may have been. It was one of the best years the Journalism class has had!

Additionally, this year's Journalism staff consists of twenty-four students, the biggest Journalism class in a long time. They are ambitious students who are willing to make a difference and create a school newspaper that informs the student body about upcoming events and, hopefully, earn some positive feedback. We will try to do our best and keep the paper as professional and interesting as we can make it. As a devoted staff, we will continue to strive to improve the paper and encourage students to make an effort to read the paper. Furthermore, we will continue using our motto and sticking to it: "Our job is reporting the news and not making it."

Stay around and be alert for the first issue of the Smoke Signal, coming in September 2006!

The Science Spot

Now Only 8 Planets in the Solar System!

On August 24th, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) voted on a proposed new definition of what a planet is. As a result of that vote, Pluto is no longer considered a planet, leaving our solar system with only 8 planets instead of the 9 we all learned about in school. The IAU also designated a new distinct class of objects called “dwarf planets.” It was agreed that “planets” and “dwarf planets” are two distinct classes of objects. The first members of the “dwarf planet” category are Ceres, Pluto and 2003 UB313 (temporary name).

Science is happening all around us. Right Now! Science touches and influences all of us in our daily lives. Therefore, understanding science and its fundamental principles is essential in preparing our students for their futures.

Welcome to ECV’s Science Spot! During the year, we encourage you to take time to get to know your child’s science teacher. Together, parents and teachers can be a formidable team working towards positive attitudes about school that will foster academic excellence for each student.

This year has brought many changes in the Science Faculty. Karen Higdon, Chemistry teacher of 20+ years, has taken a position at El Capitan in the Phoenix program and continues to work with at-risk students.

Physics teacher, Hilary Haugen, completed a double master’s degree in Physics and Education, as well as earning her Administrative Credential. She recently accepted a position as Vice Principal at California High School, near San Francisco.

Patty Raymond, Biology teacher, made a tough decision to leave El Cajon Valley and move closer to family in Alaska where she has taken a teaching position in Biology and Human Physiology. We wish them all the very best of Luck!

Joining the Science department are two new teachers, Glenn Melero, Biology, and James Warren, Physics. Mr. Melero has two sons, ages 9 and 11. He grew up in Lakeside. He has taught for five years in both middle school and high school. He enjoys playing golf, x-box, and watching the Padres and Chargers. If you need help with math, biology, computer stuff or golf tips, don’t hesitate to go see him.

Mr. Warren is a graduate of Grossmont High School (’73). He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, earning a B.S. in Marine Engineering. His 24-year naval career continued at the University of Virginia earning a M.C. in Nuclear Engineering. He has been a substitute in the district and now joins us as our new Physics teacher.

As the year gets underway, it is very important that parents, teachers, and students get connected to school. Make sure to get involved with sports and clubs, and also take advantage of Night Library, M-Th from 3:00-6:00pm, AVID, and other Extended Day programs such as the Tutoring and Mentoring programs. El Cajon Valley has many valuable programs in place and we encourage all of you to GET CONNECTED!

The 2006-07 ASB is really excited about the upcoming year of events and activities. Although the quad beautification project has precluded ASB from really welcoming the school officially through decorations and kicking off the spirited competition between the classes through lunchtime spirit games, we do have plans to shift into high gear once the fences come down. Until that day, however, ASB would like to inform the entire student body of ways that students can make this year really stand out!

1. **Get involved in a club, athletic team, or your own class activities.** If you went to Pow Wow on September 8th, you learned that some sports (water polo, cross country) still welcome students, and clubs always invite new members to join their groups. When you join a group of students who are having fun, getting exercise, representing our school in athletic competitions, and raising spirit, you make your school experience a whole lot more stimulating than just attending your three or four classes a day, sitting behind a desk.

2. **Invest in yourself.** The finance office now offers more packages for underclassmen as well as the senior package that was so popular last year. For seniors, your package includes a yearbook, a SnowBall bid, a senior mug, a Grad Nite ticket, an ASB card, a senior breakfast ticket and (if you purchase this package before October 2) a new school blanket (perfect for football games). Underclassmen can get packages that go from \$35- \$195 dollars and include a variety of different items. The one ASB hopes you will buy is package A, the All Activities package, which is the only one that gives you free admission to all dances and special events like AirBands, talent show, and SnowBall. It sure beats having to wait on lines several times a year.

3. **Be adventurous!** Never been to a dance? Check out the annual Black & White Dance on September 29th. It is a color-themed dance in the gym from 8:30-10:30 PM. You can dress in either black or white and dance or just hang out with your friends. Don’t know much about football? We have four home games in September, and you can watch and learn or just support the players and cheerleaders by yelling your vocal chords out. It sure made a difference to the team last year, all the way to the Q. Remember, get an ASB card and those games are no longer \$5 a pop. Try something new! Water polo is a great way to strengthen your body and stay cool during these very hot weeks in the beginning of school. It’s not as easy as it looks, but it is an exciting game that is as great to watch as it is to play. Build your endurance by checking out cross country. You don’t need to be fast, you just have to be able to last. When you stretch yourself, you learn what you are truly capable of doing. Adding physical activity also helps you stay more alert in school and gives you more energy to do the things you like to do. It also improves your figure and physique!

4. **This year, get involved in Spirit Week.** Your classes are already planning their strategies for decorating the school and dressing up on their day, which will be the week of October 23-27. Show your pride! Along with the incentive of gaining lots of spirit points, it really does boost the spirit of the other classes when students try to outdo each other. Go to your class meetings to see how you can be part of the fun. Cap off the week at the Homecoming game and dance. It doesn’t get much better than this during the fall!

If any students have their own ideas as to how ASB can help them out, we welcome your suggestions. Make sure your House of Representative member in period two takes this information to our next meeting which will be the first week in October.

You’ve read a lot. Now is the time to do. You’ll be glad you did...and so will we!

What's

Happening

By Date

By Type

at El Cajon Valley

High School

School Attendance Calendar

September 2006	
4	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
6	GearUp Friend Orientation
8	Pow Wow Club Fair
8	School Dance
11	Collaboration Day
18	Collaboration Day
20	English Learner Advisory Committee
25	Collaboration Day
25	Workshop: College Application Process
26	Back to School Night - Parent Open House
29	School Dance

October 2006	
2	Collaboration Day
9	Collaboration Day
11	School Site Council
16	Collaboration Day
18	PSAT Test
18	English Learner Advisory Committee
18-22, 25-26, 28	Theatre: Comedy Performance
20	Minimum Day
27	Homecoming
30	Collaboration Day

November 2006	
6	Collaboration Day
7-8	CAHSEE Testing - 11th & 12th Grades Only
10	Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL
13	Collaboration Day
13-17	Unity Week
15	Minimum Day
15	English Learner Advisory Committee
17-18	Theatre: Variety Night
22	Minimum Day
23-24	Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL
27	Collaboration Day

Important Testing Dates

10/18	PSAT
11/7-8	CAHSEE - 11th & 12th Graders Only

ASB Sponsored Activities

9/8	Pow Wow Club Fair
9/8	Kickoff Dance
9/29	Black & White Dance
10/23-27	Homecoming

9/4	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
9/11	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time
9/18	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time
9/25	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time
10/2	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time
10/9	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time
10/16	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time
10/20	Minimum Day - School Out at 12:46
10/30	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time
11/6	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time
11/10	Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL
11/13	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time
11/15	Minimum Day - School Out at 12:46
11/22	Minimum Day - School Out at 12:46
11/23-24	Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL
11/27	Collaboration Day - 8:45 Start Time

calendar

calendar

Parent Portal

Another Way for Parents to Stay Informed!

What is the Parent Portal?

The Parent Portal is a web browser application allowing authorized parents, guardians and other adults to view students who are associated to them and their **class schedule; summary attendance; behavior; fees/ fines; progress grades; and final grades (transcript information).**

The portal also allows these adults to update the following information about themselves:

1. Identify emergency contacts such as home phone; business phone; cell phone; home and work emails. Each contact type may have the days of the week and the from and thru times they can be reached.
2. Whether the school and teachers may use these contacts.
3. Whether the District may send general news via email.
4. Establish a password hint question and answer.
5. Generate a new password.
6. Additional features such as enrollment/registration are being considered.

How Do I Access the Parent Portal?

- **Type this address into your web browser: www.guhsd.net**
- **Click on “Parents” at the top of the page**
- **Click on “Parent Guardian Portal” at the top right side of the page**

There are “Help” links at the top right of each page to assist you in navigating the portal.

Title I News

The purpose of Title I funding is to “ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and state assessments.” (Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as Amended - IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED [as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001] Sec.1114).

Title I funds are used at El Cajon Valley High School to support a variety of supplemental programs:

Freshmen Academies
 Sophomore Study Skills
 Support Classes
 CAHSEE prep classes
 Brave Adventure (a summer program for incoming ninth graders)
 Teacher Assistants and Instructional Aides
 Computer Labs
 Career Center
 Family Resource Center
 Literacy across the curriculum
 Staff Development
 Curriculum Writing
 Supplemental materials and supplies

School Site Council Elections:

Would you like to become involved in the School Site Council at El Cajon Valley High School? We have parent openings on the council this year. This is a great opportunity to become involved in a decision-making committee on campus. The time commitment consists of a two-year term starting in October 2006. Meetings are once a month. Our first meeting is September 13, 6:30-8:30 PM, in room 213.

If you are interested in running, please send in a short paragraph with your name, phone number, and why you would like to serve on the School Site Council. You may send this paragraph in with your student or email it to Teri Sprecco, Title I Coordinator, at tsprecco@guhsd.net. We will put your name and paragraph (not the phone number!) on the ballot. Elections will be held at Open House, so please return your information by September 22, 2006. Thank you.

School Site Council

The California *Education Code* requires the school site council to develop a Single Plan for Student Achievement for Consolidated Application programs operated at the school or in which the school participates. In addition, Pupil Retention and School and Library Improvement Block Grant programs operated at the school must be included in the SPSA. The school site council must approve the plan, recommend it to the local governing board for approval, monitor implementation of the plan, and evaluate the results. At least annually, the school site council must revise the plan, including proposed expenditures of funds allocated to the school through the Consolidated Application, and recommend it to the local governing board for approval. Composition of the school site council is specified in the California *Education Code* as follows:

The school site council shall be composed of the principal and representatives of: teachers selected by teachers at the school; parents of students attending the school selected by such parents; and, in secondary schools, students selected by students attending the school.

At the secondary level, the school site council shall be constituted to ensure parity between (a) the principal, classroom teachers, and other school personnel, and (b) equal numbers of parents or other community members selected by parents and students.

At both the elementary and secondary levels, classroom teachers shall comprise the majority of persons represented under subdivision (a) of this section.

THE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED PROGRAM

The Severely Handicapped program is excited about its five new students. We are looking forward to parent conferences with all our parents in the month of October—before our annual reviews, which will be held in November and December.

We would like to welcome two new aides to our program: Stephanie Hutchins, a 2006 graduate of ECVHS who is also a former Teacher’s Assistant in our program; and Anne Marie Meraviro, who worked in the computer lab at ECVHS last year and is a graduate of Granite Hills High School.

LIBRARY NEWS

Thanks to a generous grant from our Title I program, with the approval of the ECVHS School Site Council, the library was able to purchase hundreds of new books at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Those books are now on the shelves and students are already checking them out.

Our new titles include more popular young adult fiction, high interest fiction and nonfiction for our special education students, high interest fiction and nonfiction to help build reading skills for our ELL students, and lots of new books to support our science, English, social science, foreign language and performing arts curricula. We have also added over 100 books to our career section, supporting the career research units that are conducted in many different classes at all four grade levels.

We are especially excited about the newest addition to the library, our Test Preparation Section! Now, students who cannot afford to buy those wonderful Barron’s guides to AP, SAT, ACT, ASVAB, CAHSEE, and PSAT tests can have access to them in the school library. We also have books that will help students with the kind of vocabulary-building skills necessary to do well on all of those tests.

So drop by the school library and see what’s happening!



Please Join Us
for
Back to School Night!
Tuesday, September 26th

Back to School Night Schedule

Have your student write down his/her schedule of classes below.
Cut out this schedule and bring to Back to School Night--it will be your routing guide.

-----Cut Here-----

Back to School Night - Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Time	Activity	Location
5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.	BBQ - \$3.00 (<i>Free with PTSA membership</i>)	Main Quad
5:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.	GATE/AP Parent Meeting	Room 109
6:30 p.m. - 6:55 p.m.	All-Parent Welcoming Assembly	Gym
7:00 p.m. - 8:21 p.m.	Visit Your Student’s Teachers/Classrooms	See Student Schedule

Student Schedule For: _____ (name)				
Period	Time	Teacher	Subject	Room #
1	7:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.			
2	7:22 p.m. - 7:37 p.m.			
3	7:44 p.m. - 7:59 p.m.			
4	8:06 p.m. - 8:21 p.m.			

“Be Someone, Go Somewhere”

at

El Cajon Valley High School

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