



## eLINK Newsletter – December 2010

### President's Message

As you read this, we hope you and your family are healthy and ready to enjoy the craziness that the next few weeks will bring! Our PTSA welcomed the season with our annual holiday brunch last week. There was good company, delicious food and fabulous entertainment provided by the SRVHS Chamber Singers. If you missed it this year, we encourage you to attend next year.

This is the season of giving and we have the opportunity to share with others through our Sister School Program partnership with Peres Elementary in Richmond. Each class has collected age-appropriate sports equipment and toys geared for active play. Our students will deliver these donations to Peres on December 16th. Looking ahead, don't forget to start saving up your books for our Read Across America book drive which will take place early in the new year.

Our next PTSA Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Career Center. We will begin forming our nominating committee, so if you are thinking about getting more involved at SRVHS, now is the time! We will have many positions available, both large and small. We welcome you all and are happy to have new faces at our meetings.

Have a warm and wonderful holiday season. See you in 2011!

[Kathy Wraith](#)  
PTSA President

[Christine Wentker](#)  
Executive Vice President

### Principal's Message

Dear San Ramon Valley High School Community,

The race is on to the New Year! Halloween is hard to remember (although I still have plenty of candy left in my office), the Thanksgiving leftovers are long gone and I am frantically trying to finish Santa's shopping list.

When I sit down and reflect over the past four months we have been in school, I realize that we have accomplished so much and yet we are still trying to squeeze in those last pearls before the break. Amid all of the education, extra-curricular activities, co-curricular activities, sports activities, and the general chaos that make up our daily routine, life (and time) goes on! The winter break provides a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with your teenager(s) and quiet some of the daily chaos.

Over the break, I would encourage you to dialogue with your son or daughter about what is going on at school both socially and academically. While you may not understand the inner workings of Avogadro's number or transitive and intransitive verbs, you will understand the highs and lows your child may be going through at school.

I have listed below some of the many wonderful and challenging events that have occurred over the past four months:

1. We have been working to provide a safe school climate for all students. We have had multiple speakers address the effects of bullying, self confidence, and drugs and alcohol. All teachers are required to use a universal communication tool called “School Loop”
2. We have put on award winning productions in Dance and Theater
3. We have showcased our musical talent through vocal and instrumental venues
4. Teacher isolationism had been diminished through collaborative team meetings
5. We are working on common pacing within a subject level
6. The school culture is changing to a focus on student learning with an emphasis on these 5 C’s – Curiosity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Creativity.
7. Our API (STAR Testing) Score is up and we have met our APY goals
8. We have an active “Dad’s” group on campus
9. Students have shown their concern about trash on our campus and have made a noticeable effort to keep our campus clean. We also have a sustainable garden on campus.
10. Our school community will be enjoying the new Main Gymnasium
11. Consistent analysis of data to more accurately help our students learn

This has been, and will continue to be, a wonderful school year filled with peaks, plateaus, and valleys of every imaginable shape and size. As we continue this exciting journey I want to encourage you to continue dialoguing with your student. Ask “What did you learn today at school?” as well as “Why did you learn it?”

Thank you for an exciting, challenging, and wonderful close of the 2010 year. I look forward to the many new and interesting changes that will make SRVHS one of the best places for our students to receive an education. I hope the 2011 year will hold great success for all of you!

Sincerely,

Joe

## PTA News and Information

### Read Across America

**SRVHS Parents-** if you are cleaning up after the holidays and you come across children’s books that you would like to donate please save them until after break. Read Across America Day is right around the corner and we will be collecting books for kids in pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Look for more information in the e-bulletin in January. If you have any questions please contact Dawn Garlieb - [garlieb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garlieb@sbcglobal.net).

## Parent/Teen Education and EPIC/Healthy Choices

It’s hard to believe we are heading into December with the holidays so very near. During November though, many SRVHS Moms attended our first “Moms Night” on the evening of November 9<sup>th</sup>. Officer/Detective and SRVHS Dad, Steve De Warns, of the Oakland Police Department, provided us with some valuable and some alarming information about social networking, cell phone use and our teens. If you were unable to attend, we encourage you to check out his website at [www.internetchildsafety.net](http://www.internetchildsafety.net).

Consider this month's " TIP(S)" as a reminder to keep the lines of communication open within your family and that parental and child respect is a two way street.

Enjoy your holiday season with family and friends. We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events!

Carol Moore: [carolsmithmoore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolsmithmoore@sbcglobal.net)

Carrie Paulus: [carrie@paulus.com](mailto:carrie@paulus.com)

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

January 11<sup>th</sup>, Tues. 7-9PM – "Dads on Campus" – New Staff Lounge

February 9<sup>th</sup>, Tues. 7-9PM – "Mom's Night" – New Staff Lounge

February 26<sup>th</sup>, Sat. - District wide Parenting Conference ("Parenting 2010 and Beyond") – Dougherty Valley High School

**Tip(s) of the Month:**

**FIFTEEN TIPS FROM TEENS TO PARENTS**

(Compiled by a group of teens: LIVING WITH TEENS MAGAZINE)

*Listen but don't try to fix it. When we come to you because we're angry or sad, just listen and support us. You don't have to solve all of our problems. Most of the time all we need is someone to talk to. Accept our feelings without minimizing the pain we're going through.*

*Do as you say. Be a role model for us. You can't expect your words to have much impact if you're not following your own advice.*

*Think positively, especially about bad report cards. If we get bad grades on our report cards, talk to us instead of getting mad. Encourage us to find a solution.*

*Ask us, don't tell us. Treat us like people. We are more willing to cooperate if you ask without bossing us around.*

*No lectures, please. The quickest way to cut off communication is lecturing – where you do all the talking and we just sit and listen.*

*Spend quality time with us. Take time to get to know us. Go to our games and activities. Even a few minutes of your full attention every day would be great.*

*Walk in our shoes. Try to think like us. Don't say you know what we're going through. You can't know what it's like to be a teenager today. The world has changed. Try to understand the pressure we are dealing with.*

*Give us space. Let us learn from the consequences of what we do or don't do. Please realize that our private space, like our room is private. Don't violate it please.*

*Give us a chance to be responsible. Have confidence in us. Give us more responsibility as we get older.*

*Treat our friends respectfully. Don't judge them by what they look like, their families, or what your own friends say. You can let us know your concerns, but leave the final decision to us.*

*We still love you. We do, even though we don't act like it. We appreciate you even when we're not feeling good about ourselves and are all wound up in ourselves.*

*Never criticize us in front of our friends. We can do stupid things sometimes, but yelling or belittling us in front of others is embarrassing.*

*Include us in family decisions. Allow us to participate in matters affecting the family, even though you make the final decision. We feel good when our opinions are heard.*

*Discipline us. We need rules. We need to know what to expect. We need to know you care.*

*Tell us you love us.*

## Special Needs Programs

### **Temple Grandin**

Tuesday, January 11

7 PM at the Performing Arts Center

Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Road, San Ramon

FREE screening of this Emmy-winning HBO-original biographical movie starring Claire Danes. Temple Grandin was born with autism and seemed destined for institutionalization, but the support of her mother, aunt, and science teacher helped her overcome the isolating challenges of autism and emerge as a successful woman with an innate ability to understand animal behavior. Dr. Grandin is a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, and is famous for both her work in the animal husbandry field as well as motivational speaking in the autism community. Hers is an amazing and touching story, and her mother always reminded her that she was "different - not less." Prepare to be moved and inspired! Rated TV-PG.

To view the flyer, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).

### **ADHD Workshop**

January 26, 7-9 PM

Speaker: Karen Knapp

Iron Horse Middle School

See the January E-Link or check the [www.srvcouncilpta.org](http://www.srvcouncilpta.org) web site soon for more information!

## 100 Year Gala – Wolf Foundation

100 Year GALA!

San Ramon Valley High School's 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Gala will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at the Blackhawk Auto Museum (Black Tie Optional). The event will feature a light dinner reception, wine tasting from a variety of California wineries, a live band and dancing, as well as on-line, silent and live auctions.

This event is open to everyone, but tickets will go fast. Please be on the lookout for more information coming soon. Questions or donation ideas, please email us at [srv100yeargala@gmail.com](mailto:srv100yeargala@gmail.com).

## Performing Arts

### THEATRE ARTS

Come see **NOISES OFF** this week Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the SRVHS Performing Arts Center. Called the funniest farce ever written, **NOISES OFF** presents a manic menagerie as a cast of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop called NOTHING'S ON. Doors slamming, on- and backstage intrigue, and an errant herring all figure in the plot of this hilarious and classically comic play.

"The most dexterously realized comedy ever about putting on a comedy. A spectacularly funny, peerless backstage farce. This dizzy, well-known romp is festival of delirium."—The New York Times

#### Performance Dates

**December 8, 9, and 10 at 7:00 pm**  
(all performances in the PAC)

Tickets are \$8 - \$12 and can be purchased in one of three ways:

- Order and print tickets on-line by visiting [www.srvhsdrama.org](http://www.srvhsdrama.org).
- Email Mr. Weible, Theatre Arts Teacher/Director, with your PAA pass number to get tickets using the pass at [rweible@srvhs.org](mailto:rweible@srvhs.org).
- Purchase tickets at the box office the day/evening of the show.

For additional information, please visit the Theatre Arts website at [www.srvhsdrama.org](http://www.srvhsdrama.org). You can also contact Mr. Weible or Meghan Morrissey, Theatre Arts Liaison, at [mdmorrissey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mdmorrissey@sbcglobal.net).

## Wolf Tones Instrumental Music

With the holiday season upon us, we have much to be thankful for. I am especially thankful for all the Instrumental Music programs available to the students at SRVHS and for the musical, academic and personal growth that these students experience in their classes. Please join me in celebrating these students at their upcoming Winter concerts on December 9<sup>th</sup> for the Jazz Ensemble (at the Acalanes High School Winter Jazz Concert) and on December 14<sup>th</sup> at SRVHS for the Winter Symphonic Concert, featuring the Orchestra, Concert and Symphonic Bands.

Looking for holiday gift ideas? – Tickets are on sale now for our Annual Benefit Concert on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (see information below). We are still looking for sponsors, volunteers and food donations for the event. Please contact Peg Wilcox at [mrwilcox@aol.com](mailto:mrwilcox@aol.com) if you wish to contribute.

Have some holiday cash to spend?– Come out to the Instrumental Music Flea Market hosted by the Marching Ensemble on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 8AM-1PM for some post-holiday shopping. Our Flea Market coordinators are also looking for donations (non-clothing) for this event. Please contact Vicky Spranger at [Vicky@promotionaledge.com](mailto:Vicky@promotionaledge.com) or Susie Hand at [sghand@comcast.net](mailto:sghand@comcast.net) if you have items to donate to the program.

As the Marching Ensemble's Competition and Football Performance season comes to an end, I want to take the time to thank the following individuals and families for their volunteer efforts behind the scenes to help the Marching students step out on the right foot. Thank you to the uniform moms, **Cheri Raymond** and **Kelly Sueksdorf**, who kept the students well groomed and dressed for all their events and to our Marching Liaison/Food coordinator, **Kerry Smith**, who kept them well fed and hydrated with the help of many parent volunteers and pre-game dinner hosts. Thank you to all the parents who helped to chaperone at the football games, parades and competitions. I especially want to thank the following parents for

their dedication to the program: **McLean Hyde**, our tour coordinator, **Kathy Moore**, our fundraising coordinator, **Debi Dias Jensen** and **Robin Gowen**, our color guard parent liaisons, and **Dan and Kathy Sampson** and **Mark and Sandi Moeller**, our trailer parents who went the extra mile this year to help with the trailer. And last but not least, a BIG Thank you to **Cheryl Yee Glass** and **Lindsey Parman** for making this season a rewarding one for the students.

As 2010 comes to a close, I'd like to thank the outgoing Board Members for their hard work, dedication and ongoing support of the Students and the Directors of the Instrumental Music Program. Thank You to **McLean Hyde**, Vice President, **Debi Dias-Jensen**, secretary, **Lisa Jordan**, Treasurer and **Kathy Moore**, Member at Large for your leadership and work on behalf of the booster group and Instrumental Music Programs. It has been an honor to work with you.

Karen Thornburg  
Wolf-Tones Booster President  
Music Counts!!

### **Upcoming Events:**

Dec 9	Guest at Acalanes H.S. Winter Concert	Jazz Ensemble
Dec 11	SRVHS Invitational Jazz Festival	Jazz Programs
Dec 14	Winter Symphonic Concert	OR, CB, SB
Jan 3, 2011	Wolf-Tones Meeting	Parents
Jan 8, 2011	Instrumental Music Program Flea Market	Marching Ensemble
Jan 29, 2011	Benefit Guest Concert	Jazz Ensemble

### **Annual Benefit Concert – January 29, 2011**

IT'LL BE A "THRILLER!" Mark your calendars for the upcoming concert benefiting the Instrumental Music Program. The 14-piece Michael Jackson Tribute Band "Foreverland" will be performing in the PAC on Saturday, January 29, 2011. Our students perform at 7:00, followed by the main act at 8:00. Warning: urge to dance may be overpowering! Advanced tickets \$25; \$30 at the door. Reserve tickets by mail by sending check to: Ocean Works, P.O. Box 2119, Guerneville, CA 95446. (Provide your name, name and date of show, # of tickets and phone #.) Online tickets available soon at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com).

### **Wolf-Tones Booster Meeting:**

The Wolf-Tones Parent Booster Meeting will be on Monday, January 3rd from 7PM-8:30PM in the old staff lounge located in the administration building (enter through the counseling office door). We invite all parents to attend these meetings, as they provide a chance to meet with the Directors and receive information regarding program events and volunteer opportunities.

## **Counseling Corner**

### **All Students:**

- During the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter progress reports are due. Please log onto School Loop to check your grades and contact the teacher(s) if you have questions.
- The end of the first semester is January 21, 2011. The first day of the second semester is Tuesday, January 25, 2011. Students who plan to make any changes to their spring schedule will need to bring in a parent note, approving the change. Please note that classes are very full and choices are quite limited due to master scheduling constraints. In August students are scheduled for the entire year, so there will not be many changes possible for the spring semester. Please also note that there will be no schedule changes made to accommodate teacher choice.

Sophomores and Juniors:

- As soon as PSAT results arrive, students will be advised to pick up their results in the Career Center during brunch, lunch, or after school. Students must pick up their own results; not their parents, please.
- Former SRV graduates will return to SRV on Wednesday, January 5th at lunch in the Career Center to talk about their first year away at college. Mark your calendar to attend this upcoming presentation.

Seniors:

- As stated earlier in a School Loop message, if you need a letter of recommendation prior to January 15, the deadline to request it from your counselor or teacher is Friday, December 3rd. There is a 2 week holiday period during which time no letters are written. Please remember that there is a packet of information you also need to submit to your counselor when you ask her to write your letter for you.
- If you change your schedule, drop a course, or earn a D or F grade after you have submitted your college applications, you **MUST** notify the campuses to which you have applied.
- Remember to apply for housing at the colleges you are considering. Space is often limited, so apply early.
- Check with private and/or out of state schools colleges to see if they require the Profile or other institutional forms in addition to the FAFSA to qualify for financial aid.
- Begin to work on the FAFSA to apply for financial aid at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) But **DO NOT** submit it prior to January 1, 2011.

## Class News and Information

### SENIORS – CLASS OF 2011

Senior Fall Selling Period

The officers are preparing for their Senior Class Fall fundraiser next week. They will be in the quad during lunch from Dec 13-17<sup>th</sup>, selling Hot Cocoa and popcorn to all students. If you can donate hot cocoa or popcorn, please contact [Carol Ann Nordine](#) or [Janet Willford](#).

Senior Ball

The venue will be ATT Park in SF on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Officers are planning the Ball now. They are deciding on menu, theme, colors, Invites, and other surprises. More info to follow in January. Please [email Cindy Moe](#) with any Senior Ball questions.

Yearbook pictures

The Traditional Senior baby pictures with parents' message go into the yearbook every year. They are due from the parents on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> to the yearbook committee....please don't forget! Please go on the [SRVHS Website](#) for more details.

Thank you all for your generous support to the class of 2011. If you have any questions in relation to your Senior's activities, please feel free to email Carol Ann Nordine.

**Have a wonderful holiday season!**

Carol Ann Nordine

[cnordine@netxperts.com](mailto:cnordine@netxperts.com)

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## JUNIORS – CLASS OF 2012

Gretchen Deuel has graciously offered to chair the Junior Class Selling Period -- which is January 10th - 14th. The kids are planning on selling hot apple cider and hand warmers (something different). Here is a list of items for donation:

1. Gallon (s) of apple cider
2. 16 oz. thermal cups from Costco
3. Caramel Syrup
4. Whipping creme.

Please [email Gretchen Deuel](mailto:Gretchen.Deuel) if you are interested in donating.

The officers are settling on Prom theme and we will be busy with that after break. We have had lots of parent volunteers but of course can use more. Let us know if you are interested.

Our meetings with the officers are held on Wednesday's during 4th period and everyone is welcome.

Many thanks,

Tammy Lancaster  
[tjlancaster@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjlancaster@sbcglobal.net)

and

Kelly Louks  
[rlouks@aol.com](mailto:rlouks@aol.com)

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## SOPHOMORES – CLASS OF 2013

### CAHSEE EXAMINATION

The ELA diagnostic assessment will be administered on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 and the math diagnostic assessment will be administered on Wednesday, December 15, 2010. Students must report to the commons/cafeteria building on both days by 8:30am. For complete information, click here for Mr. Walker's letter, which includes Spring testing dates and revised bell schedules for next week's testing.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Food Sales has been a huge success, thank you April Burstedt for taking this on event. If you are looking to get involved emails are coming soon.

### WINTER DANCE

Linda Ficenec, Dawn Garlieb and the class officers have successfully planned the upcoming WINTER DANCE being held December 10<sup>th</sup>. We know all the kids will have a fantastic time.

### SCHOOL WIDE TEXTING SERVICE

Get updates over the summer. If you have not already done so, we urge you AND your student to subscribe to the new texting service available at SRVHS. It is an easy way to stay connected. School wide and Class reminders are sent out periodically. All you have to do is send a text to 41411 (as the phone number) and type WOLVES13 (as the message). You will immediately receive a confirmation message.

## PARENT REP MEETING

Our next meeting will be on January 13th. These meeting are a great place to find out what is going on at the school. Feel free to sit in and listen or get involved. We would love to see you all there.

If you have any questions, please contact us at any time.

Tonya Colton ([tonyacolton@msn.com](mailto:tonyacolton@msn.com))

Shawna Friedler ([friedler6@gmail.com](mailto:friedler6@gmail.com))

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## FRESHMEN – CLASS OF 2014

Thank you to **Shelly Firebaugh** and **Carol Moore** for heading up the Peres effort in getting donations for our Cross-County school. Also, to all of the parents who purchased items and brought them to the "den".

We will have our Freshman "Selling Period" fundraiser the first week back from Winter Break. The kids will be selling "Baked Potatoes with Fixins" in the quad at lunch Tues-Friday of that week. If you are interested in helping out, contact **Debbie Blumhardt** .... We will need lots of Baked Potatoes!

Have a wonderful winter break with your families; may it be filled with much joy ...

Freshman Parent Advisors

Alyson Colton  
[alyson@coltonfamily4.org](mailto:alyson@coltonfamily4.org)

Debbie Blumhardt  
[dblumhardt@comcast.net](mailto:dblumhardt@comcast.net)

## eCommunication

Welcome to the SRVHS eLINK Newsletter. Our goal is to provide information to the SRVHS in a timely manner. We have three publications that we sent electronically.

- **eLINK Newsletter:** Sent monthly by the SRVHS PTSA. It contains a mix of information from school groups, parent organizations and the community.
- **Daily eBulletin:** Sent daily during the school year by SRVHS staff. It contains day-to-day school information.
- **Principal's Letters / Informational Updates:** Sent throughout the school year on an as-needed basis.

## Changing Your Email Subscriptions

If you'd like to sign up for additional publications or change your subscription information, you can easily update, add or remove your email address by clicking on the words "Update Profile/Email Address" at the bottom of this email, or by going to the school web site and entering your email address at the bottom of the screen. An email with a link will be sent to you. Follow the link to update your e-mail address information. When you change your email address, do not just add another email address. Enter the old email address and change it, or if you registered a new email address, please delete the old email address. Click on "Safe Unsubscribe" to PERMANENTLY remove your name from receiving all SRVHS publications at a particular email address. If you have any questions, [please email](#) or call Susan Austin at (925) 838-6914.

**How to Submit an Article to the eLINK**

The SRVHS PTSA publishes the eLINK once a month during the school year. The deadline for each eLINK issue is the first Thursday of each month. If you have an article to contribute to the eLINK newsletter, [please e-mail it to Tresenia Griffin](#).  
Next deadline: Thursday, January 6, 2010.

**Calendar**

Date	Event	Time	Location
Wednesday, December 08, 2010	Theatre Performance: Noises Off	7:00 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
Thursday, December 09, 2010	Theatre Performance: Noises Off	7:00 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
Thursday, December 09, 2010	Jazz Ensemble Winter Concert		Acalanes High School
Friday, December 10, 2010	Theatre Performance: Noises Off	7:00 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
Saturday, December 11, 2010	SRVHS Invitation Jazz Festival		
Tuesday, December 14, 2010	Winter Symphonic Concert		Performing Arts Center
Friday, December 17, 2010	Deadline: Primos 2011 Art Contest		
<b>Dec 18 to January 2, 2011</b>	<b>Winter Break – School Closed</b>		
Monday, January 3, 2011	Wolf-Tones Meeting	7-8:30 p.m.	Old Staff Lounge
Thursday, January 6, 2011	PTA Meeting	9:00 a.m.	Career Center
Tuesday, January 11, 2011	Dads On Campus	7-9:00 p.m.	New Staff Lounge
Tuesday, January 11, 2011	Temple Grandin: Free Film Screening	7:00 p.m.	DVHS Perf Arts Center
Wednesday, January 26, 2011	ADHD Workshop	7-9:00 p.m.	Iron Horse Middle School
Saturday, January 29, 2011	Tribute Band: Foreverland	7:00 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
Tuesday, February 9, 2011	Mom's Night	7-9:00 p.m.	New Staff Lounge
Saturday, February 26, 2011	District Wide Parenting Conference		Dougherty Valley HS
Saturday, March 19, 2011	100 Year Gala		Blackhawk Auto Museum

[Click here](#) for a complete school calendar.