



## eLINK Newsletter – December 2012

### President's Message

This is the season of giving, and we are grateful to our PTSA Sister School chair, Carolyn Gwynn, for coordinating the outdoor play toy drive for Peres Elementary students. As an example of how our school community works together, we have CSF, Leadership, and other students on campus, as well as businesses in our community, who are championing this project. Thanks to everyone involved for making a positive impact for the students at Peres.

Our Reflections chair, Mona Tom, did a great job promoting and coordinating our arts program this fall. The theme was "The Magic of a Moment", and SRVHS had entries submitted in the Visual Arts, Photography, and Musical Composition categories. Congratulations to our students who entered this contest. For more information on the PTA Reflections program, visit the SRV Council of PTA's website at <http://srvcpta-ca.schoolloop.com/Reflections>.

I would like to thank our Parent Education chairs, Carrie Paulus and Carol Moore, for their work this fall hosting Brown Bag lunches, Mom's Nights, and coordinating with Breck Lutz on the Dad's Night programs. These various gatherings have provided a wealth of information on interesting and relevant topics for us as parents of teens. If you have not had a chance to attend, I encourage you to put one of these events on your calendar in the New Year.

Enjoy this holiday season with family and friends, and have a safe and joyous New Year!

[Karen Schumann](#)

SRVHS PTSA President

### Principal's Message

Dear SRVHS Community,

Incredibly, it is December already! With just two weeks of the 2012 school year left, the holiday season is in full swing.

#### Parent Resources:

Over the last few weeks I have been lucky enough to attend some of the various Parent Education events that were orchestrated by Carol Moore and Carrie Paulus. The Parent Resource Night and the recent Brown Bag lunch with Officer Vincent Richards were thoughtful, relevant and informative. They are in the

process of planning events for the spring semester to try and make sure that we continue to offer opportunities for families.

#### **Measure D:**

Great news for the whole district, especially SRVHS - Measure D officially passed, by just over 1,000 votes. So THANK YOU to everyone who phone banked, hung door hangers, placed lawn signs and voted for it. This summer we will be getting new bleachers (both sides of the field) with a new press box. The other major phase for SRVHS will be a three story building that will consolidate most of the existing wings with the exception of the D building, the admin building and the two newest wings. The planning phase for that will probably begin in the 2013-2014 school year, however, construction won't begin for at least a couple of years following that.

#### **Common Core:**

As we move into the 2013 school year, the focus will increasingly be on the transition from STAR testing to Common Core. Common Core standards are the new standards that are being adapted across most states, nationwide.

The website [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org) provides an overview of the math and English standards. The website [www.smarterbalance.org](http://www.smarterbalance.org) shows the type of assessments that will be used. As yet, there are many unanswered questions about how this will look once it is fully implemented, but the SRVUSD administration is developing task forces and an over-arching plan that will help all of our schools in the transition. Ultimately, these standards will allow us to focus more effectively on the skills that students need to acquire in order to be successful life-long learners.

#### **Holidays:**

By the time Winter Break begins, our students will have been in school for four months! They've been very busy with academics, athletics, the arts and a variety of other pursuits. Please take some time to enjoy being with your families and friends during the Winter Break. Everyone needs a little time to relax and recharge. I hope that you are able to spend some time with the people you love and celebrate the holiday season as the New Year approaches!

Sincerely,

Ruth Steele  
Principal

### **PTA News and Information**

#### **PERES SISTER SCHOOL**

I am making a personal appeal to you for help in purchasing 600 gifts for the students at Peres

Elementary School in Richmond. Peres Elementary School is San Ramon Valley High School's Sister School. This year's theme is outdoor play.

We've made it easy to purchase, simply go to Games Unlimited in the Livery and the gifts will be held there until Santa's Elves pick them up. There's also Big 5 and Target with sales on soccer balls, basketballs, whiffle balls, hoppity balls, nerf, etc. If you purchase anywhere other than Games Unlimited, please bring unwrapped gifts to the attendance office at SRVHS, or drop me an email and I'll pick up off your front porch. Thank you for all you do, we need gifts by December 13th!

Carolyn Gwynn  
Sister School Coordinator  
[cgywnn@empirera.com](mailto:cgywnn@empirera.com)  
925-336-7525

## LEGISLATIVELY SPEAKING...

It's official - Measure D, the district's facilities bond measure, passed with 56.83% of the vote! Contra Costa County Elections officials completed their count of the 60,000 walk-in absentee and provisional ballots and certified the election on December 3rd. Thanks to the hard work of many dedicated volunteers and the support of voters throughout the district, all SRVUSD students will have access to updated technology infrastructure and will learn in schools that are well-maintained at the same high facility standards.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who supported the measure, most particularly the parents and staff members in our San Ramon Valley High School community who volunteered for Measure D phone banking, precinct walking, GOTV door hanger walking, early morning visibility, Election Day poll checking and calling. In particular I would like to thank: Karen Schumann, Kelly Kaplan, Tom Moore, Suzanne Adams, Susan Austin, Susan Lowe, Jacqueline Bennett, Ilona Rodd, Zach Pinkerton and Ruth Steele. And a special thank you to Leadership, for passing out door hangers!

Advocacy efforts to benefit children don't end the day after the election - keep in touch and stay involved in your community. The California State PTA will host a [Legislative Advocacy Conference](#) in Sacramento on February 25-26th, 2013. It is open to anyone who has an interest in advocating and wants to know more about what is going on with legislation in our State. Additionally, the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs hosts a joint, local Advocacy Day here in the East Bay with the Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs. Watch more information about this event in upcoming issues. The best way to be informed is to be involved. We encourage you to contact Jean Maguire, the SRVHS PTSA VP of Legislative Advocacy at [jean\\_maguire@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jean_maguire@sbcglobal.net) for more information on both events or to volunteer locally.

Jean Maguire  
VP of Legislative Advocacy

## SRVHS PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

The SRVHS Priorities Committee is comprised of parents who represent every parent organization on campus, as well as all four classes, and our principal Ruth Steele. Any parent or student with a question, concern or comment regarding our school – school climate, student events, on-going campus initiatives or student concerns, etc. – is encouraged to submit their question/comment to the Priorities board. You may submit feedback in two ways: write your question/comment/concerns in the notebook passed at the PTSA monthly meetings, or you may email [SRVHSPrioritiescommittee@gmail.com](mailto:SRVHSPrioritiescommittee@gmail.com). Please be aware however, this is not a vehicle to ask questions of your individual student to Ms. Steele. All questions, comments and concerns are submitted to Ms. Steele and answered during the monthly Priorities meeting. The questions with answers are read at the PTSA meeting, shared with the parent organization at their individual meetings and published in the eLINK Newsletter.

Questions, Comments, and Concerns from November, 2012:

**Question:** There has been an ongoing issue of math and science teachers not returning tests for students to evaluate and practice questions they have missed in order to reinforce the material. Instead many teachers hand tests back in class for students review, then they need to be passed back to the teacher. This year my daughter's math teacher didn't even hand out the test for Chapter 2 to review it until the day after they took Chapter 3 test. How are students supposed to prepare for tests if they have no feedback from past performance?

Along the same vein, is there any progress being made in the Math department regarding greater collaboration from teachers who are teaching the same subject to keep them all using the same tools and staying within a chapter of each other?

**Response:** We expect students to receive their test responses and be able to review all tests taken before another test is administered. We further expect that students should be able to review test/test corrections so they can learn from their errors. If a parent would like to review the test as well, they are expected to be able to do so.

SRVHS Administration will be reviewing ongoing practices with curriculum leaders (department heads) and discuss with the departments how they can work through this issue.

If your student is faced with needing extra help, here are steps students and their parents should take:

- Encourage your students to use the tools available, including:
  - Math lab on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school
  - Teacher office hours on Tuesdays after school
  - Peer tutoring during lunch
  - Meet with the teacher outside of class during their office hours
  - Seek assistance through teacher supported websites.
- Have your student email their teacher first, cc their parent:
  - Staff should respond within 48 hours

- Parents should follow up with an email if student issue has not been addressed. Be your student's advocate and help them get the help they need.

All these issues are being addressed with the curriculum leaders. Over the course of the next couple of years, Common Core Curriculum will be introduced and Star testing will be phased out. Common Core Curriculum focuses on the process of learning and problem solving rather than just finding the right answer. The shift to a Common Core Curriculum facilitates greater collaboration among teachers, and a focus on quality, not quantity.

**Question:** Question about smart phones: There is an assumption among teachers that students have smart phones. They are asked to take them out during class and use them in class for study apps. Many students do not have smart phones – and in many cases because their parents do not want them to have them. Students without smart phones feel put on the spot because they do not have a smart phone. What is the school policy regarding this?

**Response:** We are encouraging teachers to use smart phones as a learning tool and are looking at ways to make it equitable for all students. There are some valuable educational tools available as apps on smart phones and we would like our students to be able to take advantage of the technology they have. Not all students have smart phones, and as a result we are asking students to work collaboratively on the smart phones so they can be shared for the exercise.

**Question:** 6-8 hours of homework per night is crazy for our kids after being in school all day. We really need to find a better way. Any ideas? It is not making most of our kids better students – just tired.

**Response:** Many variables impact hours spent on homework, particularly at the high school level.

Homework is intended to deepen the students learning and understanding. It should be meaningful, purposeful and appropriate to the curriculum. The amount of time a student spends on assigned homework depends on many variables including student needs, abilities, processing and learning approaches and classes chosen.

If you or your student believes they have too much homework, encourage them to discuss it with their teacher/teachers. Students need to advocate for themselves so teachers understand the impact the workload has on them. Please encourage your students to speak to their teachers!

Finally, please refer to the district homework policy for more information. This can be found on the district website: [www.srvusd.net](http://www.srvusd.net). Scroll to the district icon to Policies and Procedures. Click on Policy #6154 Homework.

**Question:** Is there a lost and found at the school? What about items that are left at a sports practice on the track or in the gym?

**Response:** Lost and found can be found at the attendance office. The janitorial staff takes any items left on the field or in the gym and brings it to the attendance office.

## MEMBERSHIP

Is there a trip to San Diego in your future? One of the many benefits of PTSA membership is a free admission to Legoland with a paid admission, plus up to 6 additional tickets at \$10 off! In addition, you receive one Sea Life Carlsbad Aquarium or Legoland Water Park ticket with purchase of another. If you are a member of SRVHS PTSA and would like a voucher for these tickets, please contact Laurie Wolfe at [ljwolfe@pacbell.net](mailto:ljwolfe@pacbell.net).

Are you a senior applying for scholarships? Please remember that students must be members of the PTSA to apply for any PTA/PTSA sponsored scholarship.

If you are not a PTSA member yet, there is still time to join - from the school website under Parents, PTSA, or contact Laurie. (Adults \$15, students \$6.)

## SKI AND SNOWBOARD SWAP UPDATE

Our 34th Annual Ski and Snowboard Swap for San Ramon Valley High School was held last month, and with the help of 200+ volunteers and our Ski Swap Organizing Committee, we had a pretty good time in the 80 degree weather. A big "Thank You" to everyone who came to volunteer and also to those that came to shop or consign your used equipment. The good news is we generated a preliminary profit of \$16,000 for our PTSA Staff Grant Program, which will be distributed in January.

More good news. Snow is now falling in the Sierra Nevada, and it looks like a very promising ski season. So get up there, enjoy your winter and come back to the Swap next year.

Thanks again to the many, many volunteers and the Ski Swap Organizing Committee: Molly Brazeale, Robi Perley, Jeff Tobia, Henry Bartley, Lani Aurelius, Melody Cannon Thompson, Beth Pasqualina, Emilie Schmidig and family, Joelle Thiermann, Kim and Jim Johnson, Christy Christoffersen, and Karen Castillo.

## Parent/Teen Education and EPIC/Healthy Choices

As we quickly head into the holiday season, we hope it is a time of comfort, love and laughter for you and your family! Although the song tells us, "It's the most wonderful time of the year", it's important to know that sometimes it's a season of more complex feelings, all of which are normal. Before we head into the winter break, we wanted to share with you the Parent Ed events that closed our 2012 school year.

The "**Dads On Campus**" held their **Dad's Night** on Thursday, November 28th. Principal, Ruth Steele was the keynote speaker, sharing valuable information about the workings of SRVHS! Stay tuned for future events that are "Just for Dads". Any questions can be directed to Breck Lutz at [blutz@ccareynkf.com](mailto:blutz@ccareynkf.com).



Our second “**Brown Bag Lunch**” took place on December 5th from 12-1 in the New Staff Lounge. Danville Police Officer Vince Richards shared information about what he sees and intervenes with on our school campus. He focused largely on Drug and Alcohol use amongst teens and the importance of parents educating themselves and their teens about making good choices. If you attended this event and would like to share your feedback with Officer Richards, he welcomes it! Please email him at [vrichards@srvhs.org](mailto:vrichards@srvhs.org).

On November 8th, we offered our first **Parent Resource Night** (PRN) for this school year. With the first quarter grades out, parents considered ways to reestablish family communication, help our teens to become more motivated or organized, and also learned more about the goings-on with our teens in this community from a law enforcement perspective. This event was free of charge and sponsored by the PTSA and Parent Education. If you attended this evening event and were unable to complete a survey about your experience and thoughts and still want to, please do so by emailing Carol Moore or Carrie Paulus (emails below). Your feedback is crucial in helping us bring valuable learning opportunities to our parent community at SRVHS.

We look forward to meeting all of you at our upcoming events.

Carrie Paulus, [carrie@paulus.com](mailto:carrie@paulus.com)  
Vice President - Parent Education

Carol Moore, [carolsmtihmoore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolsmtihmoore@sbcglobal.net)  
Chairperson - EPIC/Healthy Choices

Breck Lutz, [blutz@ccareyyynkf.com](mailto:blutz@ccareyyynkf.com)  
Coordinator – “Dad’s on Campus”

### **Dates to Remember:**

January 17th, Thursday, 7-9PM – Mom’s Night - Career Center

February 6th, Wednesday, 12-1PM – Brown Bag Lunch – New Staff Lounge

February 28th, Thursday – 6:30 –8:30PM – Dad’s Night - New Staff Lounge

### **Tip of the Month**

*Some thoughts for the holidays....*

*If the family were a fruit, it would be an orange, a circle of sections, held together but separable - each segment distinct. ~Letty Cottin Pogrebin*

*Having a place to go - is a home. Having someone to love - is a family. Having both - is a blessing. ~Donna Hedges*

*Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!*

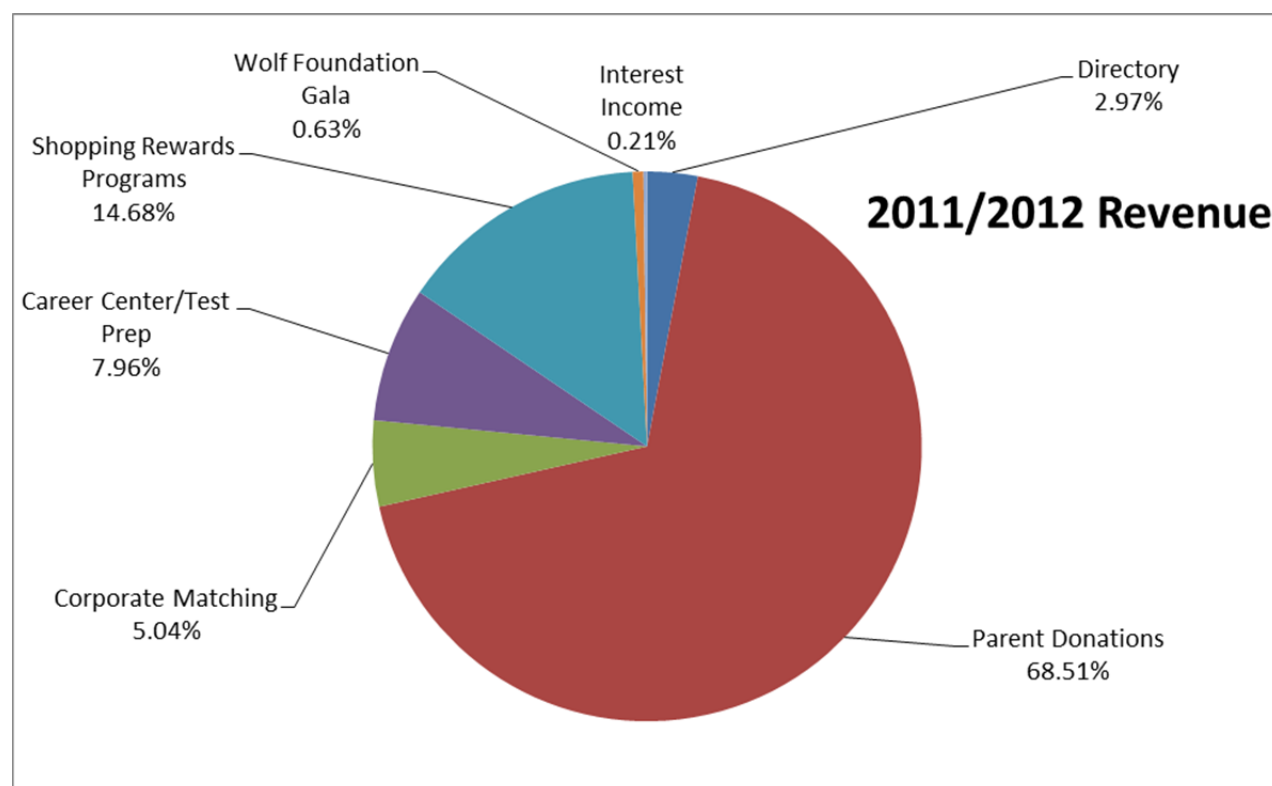
## Academic Boosters

Please join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, January 9th at 10:30 in the Career Center. We always appreciate parents attending our meetings and giving us input on how we can make an impact on the SRVHS Academic Community.

At our last meeting in November, we had the pleasure of watching presentations from various student groups on campus regarding how their activities enhance the academic environment at San Ramon Valley High School. We are happy to announce that we funded monies to Science Alliance to help defray the cost of their annual Science Fair, which they will be hosting this year; SRSA to help with their cost of having brought Jim Jordan to our school earlier in the year for an anti-bullying assembly; Renaissance Recognition Program; Link Crew through Leadership; and the Speech and Debate team.

As it is the end of the year, I thought it would be a good idea to share with the parent community our financial results from the 2011/2012 school year so you know how your donation to us was spent and to assure you that all monies collected during the year were spent during the same year.

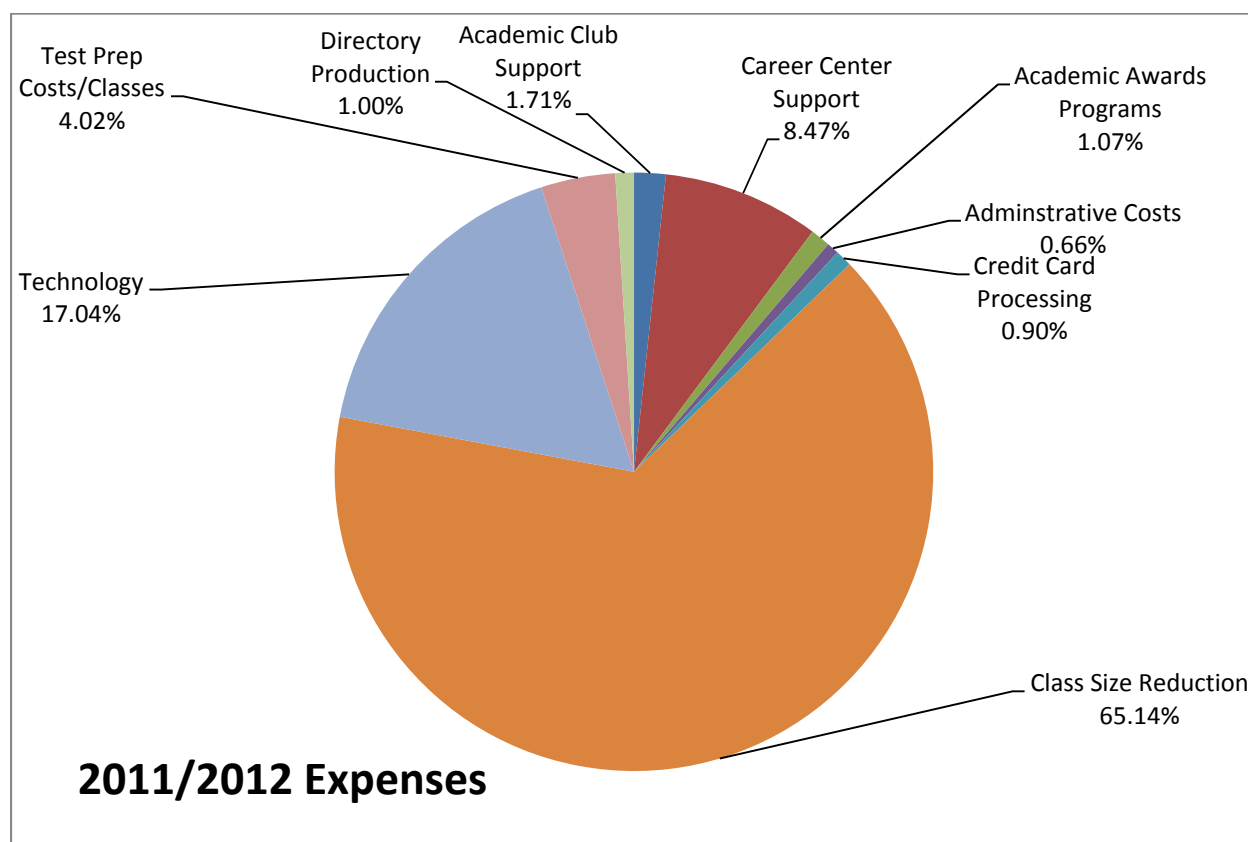
For the 2011/2012 school year, we collect \$347,040.00 from the following sources:



As you can see, parent donations accounted for 68.51% of our revenue. So, a big THANK YOU for your continued support of our organization.

We spent \$404,187.00, which not only was all of our parent donations for the 2011/2012 school year, but a portion of our reserves that we have been carrying on the books for several years and decided to start to expend for the benefit of our students, as follows:





As you can see, the majority of the funds that we raised (65.14%) went to Class Size Reduction and we were able to fund a large technology need at the school. We will continue to spend 100% of the money that is raised during the current year so your students will directly benefit from your donation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [sticca@pacbell.net](mailto:sticca@pacbell.net).

Susan Tricca

Academic Boosters President 2012-2013

## Performing Arts

### VOCAL MUSIC

Please join us in celebrating the joy of the holidays at the SRVHS Vocal Music Winter Concerts. They take place on Tuesday, December 18th and Wednesday, December 19th at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are on sale now. Also on sale are our 2012 Annual CDs. Each set includes 2 CDs with 49 songs, and costs only \$15. They make great holiday gifts!

For CDs, concert tickets or further information, please contact Ken Abrams, Choral Director, at [kabrams@srvhs.org](mailto:kabrams@srvhs.org) or Wendi Ganschow, Vocal Music Parent Coordinator, at [sanramonvoices@gmail.com](mailto:sanramonvoices@gmail.com).

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

The Instrumental Musical Wolves continue to dazzle the state... this time our Jazz Ensemble rocked the stage at the Central Cal Competition in Merced with a FIRST place award. And our Jazz Band placed fourth overall with a great performance, too. On Saturday, December 8, our Jazz groups performed at the SRV Jazz Invitational held at our PAC.

The Winter Concert by the Orchestra, Concert & Symphonic classes will be on Tuesday, December 11 at the PAC 7:00 PM. The students have been practicing hard and this concert will be a seasonal treat.

### Upcoming Instrumental Music Events:

Tuesday, December 11 - Winter Concert @ PAC 7:00PM

Saturday, January 19 - Flea Market @ Commons 8:00AM (contact: [MFraysse@gmail.com](mailto:MFraysse@gmail.com))

Saturday, February 2 - Benefit Concert with Diablo Symphony @ PAC 7:00PM

Thursday - Sunday, March 7-10 March - Marching & Color Guard SoCal Tour (Disneyland, recording session & universities)

Summer 2014 - Musical tour of Spain

Wolf-Tones is a nonprofit organization that provides support and funding for ALL Instrumental Music Programs at SRVHS. As school budgets get reduced or cut, it becomes even more important for our organization to support the needs of ALL Instrumental Music classes. Wolf-Tones purchases all music, replacement or repair of all instruments, field trip & festival fees, Honor Group fees, and support aids for Mrs. Glass. Please make a point of getting involved and purchasing a Wolf-Tones membership. This membership grants you entrance to all the concerts as well as help fund all the work we do. We meet the first Monday of every month at 7:00PM in the Old Staff Lounge. These meetings are open to all Instrumental Music parents and you are encouraged to come. Get involved! Fully tax deductible contributions are always welcome, too.

## **Counseling Corner**

### **All Students:**

Please continue to log onto School Loop to check your grades and contact the teacher(s) if you have questions.

### **Sophomores and Juniors:**

When PSAT results arrive, students please pick up in the Career Center during lunch or after school. When you pick up your results you will be given a handout with details about upcoming times/dates for PSAT Interpretation Workshops. Several sessions will be held for students who have questions regarding interpreting their scores and other general questions. A separate workshop will be provided for parents.

### **Juniors and Seniors:**

Continue to attend college representative meetings, if you are interested.

Visit colleges in which you are interested during the winter break.

### **Seniors:**

As stated in the eBulletin, if you need a letter of recommendation you will need to allow your counselor and/or teacher three weeks to complete your letter of recommendation. Remember; there is a two week holiday period during which time no letters are written.

Note: This is the last month to take the SAT 1 or ACT for CSU and UC and the last month to take the SAT Subject Tests for UC.

Check with private and/or out of state schools and 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, 2013.

## **Wolf Foundation**

**Missed Cyber Monday?** You still have time to SAVE at over 600 of your favorite online retailers. Sign up for SRVHS Rewards Program and when you Shop Online at [www.SanRamonValleyHSRewards.com](http://www.SanRamonValleyHSRewards.com) you save on purchases and earn \$ for our school. Shop at big name retailers like Macy's, Levy's, Champion, Target, GAP, Southwest Airlines Vacations, Sephora, and Bloomingdale's to name a few. Check it out today – and it's FREE to sign up!

## **Class News and Information**

### **SENIORS – CLASS OF 2013**

President ~ Molly McKenna

Vice President ~ Katelyn Looney

Secretary ~ Lindsay Portman

Treasurer ~ Emma Glass

**Senior Timeline:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eJG9BSsx8WwjFP2B-2VnCB2hYZDERBzQppWp56JFtvE/edit>

### **Yearbook Ad Reminder**

Submit your student's baby picture/message to the yearbook! Submissions are due by December 21st. These can be submitted by visiting the website, [www.yearbookordercenter.com](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com) and enter 6258 as the order #. Click on "Buy a Yearbook, AD or other cool stuff" and then click the "Yearbook Ads" tab at the top of the next page to create and purchase your senior message online. Please include child's full name and proofread your entry for mistakes. Prices are \$45 for a 1/8 page ad and \$65 for a 1/4 page ad, payable by credit card only. The website will be inactive after the December 21 due date so don't delay!

### **Sister School**

Help out our sister school! This year we are donating over 600 "Outdoor Play" toys to Peres Elementary. The senior class is in charge of 5th and 6th graders. Please bring in soccer balls, whiffle balls, frisbees, and other fun outdoor items suitable for 10 to 12 year olds to A2 by December 11th!

### **Stadium Chair Fundraiser**

The Class of 2013 (thanks to MaryBeth Turner) continues to fund raise through stadium chairs. These stadium chairs are heavy-duty with a steel frame and canvas back. They are green and gold and have been screen printed with the "SRVHS Wolves" logo. They look really sharp and are very comfortable back-savers! Stadium chairs are now also for sale at Just Fun in Danville!

It will help pay for future Class of 2013 events like Senior Ball and Grad Night. These chairs are available to all of SRVHS so please don't hesitate to order if you're in another class! If you would like to purchase one, please email MaryBeth Turner at [jmmmat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmmmat@sbcglobal.net). We can have it delivered to your house or to the home game of your choice. Make checks payable to 'SRVHS Class of 2013'.

### **Stay Informed!**

Make sure you're a part of the 'SRVHS Class of 13' **Facebook group** and **Twitter @SRVgco13**. They are also great ways to talk with your officers, they're always free to talk with you and interact with fellow classmates.

### **School Wide Texting Service**

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.

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)

Class of 2013 Parent Reps

## **GRAD NIGHT 2013**

We need you! COME JOIN THE GRAD NIGHT TEAM in CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN! Looking for volunteers to join our construction team, as well as a few more 'designers ' needed. We are looking for someone to design the Movie Room, the PAC Lobby and a couple other areas. Don't be concerned if you are not creative, the design team already has some ideas for the themes for these areas! Please consider joining a great team of volunteers!

### **Worksite Needed**

- Minimum of 3,000 sq. ft
- Local
- Safe, Secure, Well Lit
- Water and Electric
- Donated or minimal cost
- Available approximately February 1st through June 30th

Please contact us if you or anyone you know may be able to help us out. We are not able to use the site that they used last year (the building was sold). If we do not have a worksite, we will not have a Grad Night.

Thanks to those of you who have already registered your student for Grad Night. If your student is not registered, please be sure to register before the price increases. We spend all the money collected for events that night. The sooner we know how many students are attending the better we can budget and plan. Please help us out by registering your student today! If you are not sure if your student is registered, please go to [www.srvhs.net](http://www.srvhs.net), click on the Class of '13 tab (on the left side), then click on Grad Night (in the box on the right) to get the latest information regarding registration. This page has a link to a list of the students who have already registered (and paid).

### **Donations**

In addition to buying a ticket and/or working on Grad Night throughout this year, we ask parents to help us by providing leads to businesses that may be able to supply prizes or may wish to underwrite a portion of Grad Night expenses. The ticket price is about 25% below the cost of putting on the event, so community support is very important to the event's success.

If you are not able to physically help out because of work/schedule conflicts, you can help us in another way. We want to make this a "night to remember" for our seniors, and the Prize Committee is requesting monetary donations (many which are company match eligible!) and/or gift cards/certificates (iTunes, Starbucks, Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Best Buy are very popular with the kids). These donations will go directly into providing raffle prizes and take-home gifts for our students. A sponsorship donation form is available for download below.

If you can help with this or have business connections that might, please email Angela Ciccone ([angela@cicconefamily.com](mailto:angela@cicconefamily.com)) or Patti Maxwell ([plmaxwell@mmm.com](mailto:plmaxwell@mmm.com)).

## **Fundraisers**

### Ink Cartridge Recycling

Now is the time to start sending in your ink cartridges to help offset Grad Night expenses! Bring your empty ink cartridges (from printers, copy machines, etc, any size will do) to the old staff lounge and place them in the Grad Night Ink Cartridge bin. Please ask your companies to help as well. We can arrange pickup from any local business. Please email Judy Koart with any questions at [judykoart@yahoo.com](mailto:judykoart@yahoo.com).

### Senior Portrait Vendor

Custom Moments Photography (started over a decade ago by a mom of a current SRVHS senior) will donate 10% of each session to the SRVHS 2013 Grad Night fund for any session completed this fall or next spring. The session includes photographing at a location of mutual choice and dozens of images on an unrestricted, printable CD (print any size - wallets to canvases, announcements, etc.) for a flat fee of \$250.00. CD will be ready within two weeks of the session. For more information visit [www.custommoments.com](http://www.custommoments.com) or contact Karen Henrich by cell at (925) 984-9454.

We encourage all of you to join us in making Grad Night 2013 one to remember.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either one of us.

Happy Holidays to you and your families.

To a memorable 2013,

Laurel Portman, [laurel.portman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laurel.portman@sbcglobal.net)

MaryBeth Turner, [jmmmat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmmmat@sbcglobal.net)

Grad Night 2013 Co-Chairs

SRVHS Grad Night

P.O. Box 671

Danville, CA 94526

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## **SOPHOMORES – CLASS OF 2015**

### **Class of 2015 Officers**

President ~ Colette Smith

Vice President ~ Lauren Kadesh

Secretary ~ Trevor Alexander

Treasurer ~ Nate Becker

**Congratulations** on our first successful **Annual Winter Boutique and Fair** which took place on Saturday, December 1st from 10AM-3PM at SRVHS.



A HUGE Thank You to Sophomore parent Michelle Quinlan who initiated the idea and took it on as a fundraiser for our class. With the help from the Parent Representatives, the Sophomore Class Officers and Sophomore Parent Volunteers, we raised \$3,000 for the Class of 2015! We had over 65 vendors and hundreds of visitors!

Along with the wonderful vendors, a special thank you to the following businesses and persons who helped to make our event successful:

Best Buy  
Chow's  
Cottage Jewel  
Dennis Thompson  
Fresh and Easy  
Harold and Suzanne Adams  
Kids at Play-Michelle Quinlan  
Kristen Barker  
New Valley Medlyns Restaurant  
Quad Express Printing  
Talkin' Baseball  
That Bar  
Tootsie's  
Total Threads  
Walnut Creek on Ice

Thanks also to our volunteers:

Student Volunteers: Colette Smith, Lauren Kadesh, Peter Riley, Christina Riley, Emily Castellanos, Aimee Quinlan, Taylor Cuenin, Maddi Mascali, Charlotte Wood Superchargers.

Adult Volunteers: Michelle Quinlan, Melissa Blumenfeld, Helga Glasson, Jeff Blumenfeld, Donita Romero, Mike Allen, Tonya Colton, Randy Giusto, Isabell Javier, Carol Mascali, Marina Cuenin, Sandra Peterson, Mary Webster, Jill Razzano, Audrey Huggins, Sara Goldstein.

### **Peres Elementary Gift Drive Happening Now!**

We are privileged to have a deep and long standing relationship with the students of Peres Elementary in Richmond. What a wonderful school full of deserving children it is. Our tradition is to distribute a new holiday gift to every student at Peres. This is an all-hands-on-deck effort as we seek to provide gifts to 600 students! Sophomore families are responsible for purchasing toys for the 1st and 2nd grades.

The theme this year is "Outdoor Play" and we have partnered with Games Unlimited in the Livery in Danville whose entire back wall is dedicated to outdoor play. Their Valet service allows you to leave your gifts there and we will pick them up!

Let's also encourage these young children to play outside with soccer balls, basketballs, whiffle balls, etc. Big 5 currently has reasonably priced items including Frisbees, smash ball and "soft sluggers" for pre-K's.

And don't forget Amazon! What an easy option and you don't even have to leave the house! But order today as it is a difficult task to coordinate all these gifts if they come in last minute.

Have your students bring gifts to the Attendance Office collection box or directly to room A2. For questions or monetary donations, contact Carolyn Gwynn, SRVHS Sister School Coordinator at [cgwynn@empirera.com](mailto:cgwynn@empirera.com) or 336-7525. Checks may be made to SRVHS-PTSA with "Peres" written on the memo line.

Teach your student to be a Leader – if they are on a team at school, or Mustang Soccer, Lacrosse, softball, etc. Have them take the lead in the effort to collect a gift from each team member.

Winter Dance originally scheduled for Friday, December 14th has been cancelled.

**Sophomore Cruise Committee Needed** - The Sophomore Cruise on Hornblower Cruises out of San Francisco Bay is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th from 5-11:30pm. We need a committee of parents to work with the Class Officers to plan this event. Please email Melissa Blumenfeld at [cecil60s@aol.com](mailto:cecil60s@aol.com) for questions or sign up at [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F4BAAAB229-sophomore1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F4BAAAB229-sophomore1).

**Junior Prom Volunteers Needed** - Sophomore Parents help chaperone the Junior Prom which is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2013. Please email Helga Glasson at [glasson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glasson@sbcglobal.net) for questions or sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4BAAAB229-junior>.

### **Friendly Reminders:**

#### **Class of 2015 Parent Email List**

We have lots of activities and news to share with the Sophomore Parents. If you are interested in putting your name on the Class of 2015 email list which sends out requests for volunteers and donations and updates on Sophomore activities, please email Helga Glasson at [Glasson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Glasson@sbcglobal.net) to get on the list.

#### **Class of 2015 Texting Service**

You and your Sophomore should sign up for the school-wide texting service. You and your student can easily stay updated with Sophomore and school functions and news. To sign up, text WOLVES15 to 41411, and you will immediately receive a confirmation message.

#### **Class of 2015 Facebook Page**

Please have your kids join the Sophomore Facebook Page for updates and information on Sophomore and SRV activities. Have them search the SRV Class of 2015 page for the request to join.

#### **Class of 2015 Twitter**

Follow the Class of 2015 on Twitter - @whatsupSRV15

Please contact us at any time with any questions, comments or suggestions.

Helga Glasson, [glasson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glasson@sbcglobal.net), 925-212-0986  
Melissa Blumenfeld, [cecil60s@aol.com](mailto:cecil60s@aol.com), 914-391-5898  
Class of 2015 Parent Reps

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## **FRESHMEN – CLASS OF 2016**

This past month has been super calm compared to the crazy month of Homecoming! We're planning a few fundraising Restaurant Nights starting in the month of January. We will send out information as soon as we can at the start of the New Year. Please consider taking a break from cooking and support our fundraising efforts!

Our Parent Representatives, Kelly Welch and Elizabeth Patton, are helping plan a couple "Mom's Nights Out" to bring freshman parents together for some social time.

The Freshmen Class placed 3rd in the coin drive this year! All of the coins went to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Our last activity of the year is to the Peres Gift Drive. We are asking for Freshmen class families to donate "Outdoor play" gifts to the Kindergarten students of Peres Elementary.

Elizabeth Patton, [libby\\_patton@yahoo.com](mailto:libby_patton@yahoo.com)  
Kelly Welch, [sokelly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sokelly@sbcglobal.net)  
Class of 2016 Parent Reps

## **Leadership**

### **Hurricane Sandy Fundraiser**

Last month, Leadership organized a class and staff coin drive competition, raising money for the Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. The staff won the competition and will enjoy a pizza luncheon as a reward. Together, we raised over \$2500 – Thank you to everyone for the help!

### **Baseball Challenge for Youth**

By January 8th, we are hoping to collect any and all unwanted baseball equipment to donate to the youth in San Francisco. There is a collection box in the Leadership room, and for every donation, students can fill out one raffle ticket. If our school collects more equipment than any other participating school, then we will win SF Giants' tickets, which in turn will be given to winners of our raffle drawing.

### **Adopt-a-Family**

Leadership worked with the school and community, and together, identified families in our school that are in need. Students can anonymously “adopt” a family for the holidays, giving gifts, meals, etc. For more information, please contact [jwillford@srvhs.org](mailto:jwillford@srvhs.org).

### **Yearbook Senior Messages**

The senior messages (baby picture and message) are due December 16th! Information on how to create a message can be found on [www.srvhs.org](http://www.srvhs.org) under “News and Announcements” on the YEARBOOK link.

## **eCommunication**

Welcome to the SRVHS eLINK Newsletter. Our goal is to provide information to the SRVHS community in a timely manner. We have three publications that we send 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 do so by clicking on the words "Update Profile/Email Address" at the bottom of this email. If you have any questions, please email the eLink editor, [Christy Christoffersen](mailto:Christy.Christoffersen@srvhs.org).

### **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. To contribute an article to the eLINK newsletter, [please email it to Christy Christoffersen](mailto:Christy.Christoffersen@srvhs.org). The deadline for the January eLINK is: Thursday, January 10th, 2012.

## **Calendar**

12/11 – **Instrumental Music Winter Concert**, 7pm, PAC

12/13 – **Sister School Toy Drive Deadline**

12/15 – **Athletic Boosters Rummage Sale**, 8am-2pm, Commons

12/16 – **Athletic Boosters Rummage Sale**, 9am-2pm, Commons

12/18 & 12/19 – **Vocal Music Winter Concert**, 7pm, PAC

12/22 – 1/6 – **Winter Break**

1/9 – **Academic Booster Meeting**, 10:30am, Career Center

1/10 – **PTSA Meeting**, 9am, Career Center

1/19 – **Instrumental Music Flea Market**

1/17 – **Mom's Night**, 7-9pm, Career Center

1/21 – **No School**

1/28 – **No School**

2/2 – **Benefit Concert with Diablo Symphony**, 7pm, PAC

2/7 – **PTSA Meeting**, 9am, Career Center

2/6 – **Brown Bag Lunch**, 12-1pm, New Staff Lounge

2/18 – **No School**

2/28 – **Dad's Night**, 6:30-8:30pm, New Staff Lounge