



SHS Friday Letter



September 18, 2020

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Good evening Falcon Families!!

This week on Wednesday was our virtual Back to School Night. Parents and teachers enjoyed a few minutes of live interaction. Though there were a couple of hiccups for our first ever (and hopefully last) online Back to School Night, the event ran relatively smoothly. Thank you to our teachers for logging in from their homes to present and welcome parents. Thank you to our parents for making the time worthwhile, and thank you to our ASB and Link Crew students who lent a helping hand to our teachers as virtual room monitors. Also on Wednesday, all staff attended a sexual harassment and prevention webinar to review our requirements as mandated reporters, our responsibilities under Title IX, and how to work towards creating a safe community for our students and peers.

Next week, our School Site Council meeting is online on Thursday at 4:30pm. In addition, on Wednesday during Advisory, students will begin their Epoch Student learning series that is designed to empower them with a framework for understanding and compassionately addressing inequity in order to create thriving spaces of success and belonging for all students. Each grade level will focus on a different theme, grounded in Epoch's RIR (Recognize, Interrupt, and Repair) Protocol for Compassionate Dialogue.

Finally, this is a reminder that the 1st grading period ends next Friday, September 25 and the last day to drop a class without a penalty is Friday, October 2. Students should email their Guidance Counselor with a parent cc'd on the email to make the request.

Now that it appears we have fresh air again, I hope you and your family will have an opportunity to open the windows, get out for a walk, jog, or ride, and soak in the goodness. If the previous week's worth of challenges have shown us, we will rally together to weather any storm. #TOGA-ther!

Best wishes,

Greg Louie, Principal

Unity Makes Community

Upcoming Advisory: Epoch's RIR Protocol for Compassionate Dialogue

Beginning Wednesday, students will partake in the Epoch's RIR (Recognize, Interrupt and Repair) Protocol for Compassionate Dialogue during Advisory. Here are the various topics and explanations by grade level.

- **9th Grade - Understanding Microaggressions:** Students will explore the impact of harmful language, stereotypes and biases in order to recognize and interrupt when they are contributing to it, experiencing it or witnessing it.
- **10th Grade – Exploring Implicit Bias:** Students will take a deeper dive into the concept of implicit bias and its impact on personal relationships, communities, and educational opportunities for all students.
- **11th Grade – The Tragedy of Non-ness:** Students will examine the connection among concepts such as dominant narratives, counter-stories and marginalization. They will learn how to engage compassionately and affirm the experiences of others as the antidote to feelings of invisibility and non-ness.
- **12th Grade – Empowering Students as Equity Leaders:** Students will learn about equity and equality in order to explore their own passions and ways of engaging with social issues as leaders.

SHS Music Fire Relief Benefit Concert

On Saturday, September 26, 1:00pm-2:00pm, members of the SHS Music Program will present a Fire Relief Benefit Concert. All proceeds will be donated to the [Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County](#) to continue to help support those who have been affected by the Lightning Complex fires. The Benefit Concert will be hosted live and archived on the ["Toga Strings"](#) Youtube Page. Please join us for an afternoon of music!

WeTip



We are committed to doing our best to prevent inappropriate behavior in our school community, to quickly and firmly address such behaviors when they do arise, and to support the victims of such behavior. We believe WeTip can be a valuable tool in accomplishing this goal.

WeTip is a nationwide crime reporting system that ensures absolute anonymity, not just confidentiality. Once a report is filed, WeTip will contact our Student Services Department with the specifics of the incident. The Student Services Department will work with site administrators, counselors, and other relevant school staff to, when appropriate: heighten awareness, increase adult supervision, provide counseling support, and/or intervene with disciplinary action as appropriate. Additionally, we know that bystanders often fail to get involved because they are not sure what to do, are afraid of retaliation, concerned that they will become ostracized, or don't think adults will help. Through WeTip, the anonymity of the person reporting is maintained. Students and parents are also encouraged to contact school staff directly to report inappropriate behaviors because this typically provides us with more detailed and helpful information. To learn more about WeTip, you can go to <https://wetip.com/>. To submit a report/tip, you can go to <https://wetip.com/submit-anonymous-tip-2/>. These links are also available on the school website under Quick Links.

Sewing Machines Needed

The theater department needs sewing machines of any type for our costume shop. If you have a machine that you no longer use, we would love a donation of any working make or model. Please email bringsted@lgsuhd.org if you have one to donate.

Wellness Resource: Ananya Sekheram

Strengthening the immunity of our students is of utmost importance. It is a known fact that yoga, breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques aid in improving immunity. Ananya Sekheram is a Senior at SHS and her offering is one of the many wellness resources you'll find at SHS. Since middle school, Ananya practiced breathing techniques that really helped her manage her stress. Ananya is a trained yoga teacher from Yoga Bharati and teaches yoga and breathing techniques to youth for the past couple of years.

Ananya wants to share these stress relief and immunity boosting tools with her fellow classmates on Red Days between 1st and 3rd period, Monday and Thursday from 9:45am-10:00 am. Please email Ananya directly at seka3054@lgsstudent.org to receive the link to join. Students will learn how to better meet stress with these breathing exercises.

Congratulations to Ritika Garg

When Ritika Garg realized that many families were struggling to occupy their young children at home as a result of the global pandemic, Ritika decided to develop and host a virtual week-long neuroscience-themed summer camp for 1st to 3rd graders called "Brain Camp for Kids." Ritika created the curriculum for the camp completely from scratch: developing five neuroscience coloring worksheets, sourced videos and a catchy brain song, and designing two neuroscience-themed board games and a hands-on brain experiment. Additionally, to help with the PPE crisis due to COVID-19, Ritika requested a voluntary donation of \$25 (or more) from participants and donated all of the proceeds to Get Us PPE Bay Area. Ritika hosted nine week-long sessions of "Brain Camp for Kids," teaching nearly 50 children and raising \$1340 for COVID-19 relief.

Congratulations to Urmila Vudali

For her efforts over the past three years as a Santa Clara County Youth Task Force member, Youth Board member at The Tech, member of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action and a Microplastics initiate, Urmila Vudali was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the California State Assembly and Assembly Member Evan Low.

Working closely with Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, especially Supervisor Joe Simitian who appointed her to the Santa Clara County Youth Task Force, Urmila won a declaration of Microplastics Awareness Day on September 14th. To mark the occasion, Urmila hosted a webinar with four experts on Microplastics pollution and mitigation efforts. Here is the press release ([Saratoga High School Senior Spearheads Microplastic Awareness Day - District 5 - County of Santa Clara](#)) from Supervisor Joe Simitian's office.

Prudential Spirit Community Service Award

If your student is a "Changemaker," parents are asked to nominate their child for the Prudential Spirit Community Award. Top state-level honorees earn \$1000 scholarships and an invitation to the program's national recognition events. Applications can be found at spirit.prudential.com and are due November 10, 2020.



ASB News & Updates

"After Hours" Hangout for Students (bring your pets!)

Every Tuesday at 4pm Leadership students are hosting a [virtual hangout](#), open to any students who are interested in visiting, chatting, and talking to other students. There is no agenda, no goofy videos, no surveys

in this group. It will be a place for students to drop in and interact with other students to share experiences, laugh, and just enjoy each other's company.

Class Lip Dub Sign Ups

If you are interested in helping your class perform a short "lip dub" for your class click on the following links

- [Senior Sign Up](#)
- [Junior Sign Up](#)
- [Sophomore Sign Up](#)
- [Freshmen Sign Up](#)

Club Day Slide Decks

Students, in case you missed Club Day on Monday or Tuesday, and are interested in joining a club, check out the slide deck of [Academic Clubs](#) and the slide deck of [Service/Cultural Clubs](#). Find the one you're interested in, follow the instructions on the slide deck, and get involved!



SHS TV Episode for the Week of September 14, 2020

Checkout SHSTV's first broadcast of the year here for the [Week of September 14, 2020](#).

AP Exams: Registration Opens September 21

AP Exam Registration will open on Monday, September 21 at 4:00 pm. For SHS to order an exam, students need to pay on [Total Registration](#) and enroll on their College Board account using the Join Code provided from Total Registration. Exams are \$120 each. If you have any questions, please visit our [ACT/SAT/PSAT/AP Testing](#) webpage or contact Kathy Sheridan (ksheridan@lgsuhd.org) with questions.

AP Chinese Exam Update

Only students enrolled in the SHS AP Chinese Course are guaranteed a space for the AP Chinese Exam. All students wanting to take the AP Chinese exam at SHS must complete the [AP Chinese Waitlist Form](#). Here is the [Explanation of the AP Chinese Priority List](#). The AP Chinese Waitlist will open Monday, September 21 and close Friday, October 2. A testing slot for a student will be confirmed on October 6. If you have any questions, please visit our [ACT/SAT/PSAT/AP Testing](#) webpage or contact Kathy Sheridan (ksheridan@lgsuhd.org) with questions.

Grad Night Meeting, Tuesday, September 22

There will be a Grad Night Zoom meeting this Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:00pm. While we are still in Stage 1, we wanted to meet with parents to discuss different possibilities for Grad Night. Please join us for a quick introduction and how you might be able to help plan an event for our graduates. [Zoom Link is Here](#).

Drama Department Film Festival Workshops

The SHS Drama department is holding a film festival this fall/winter and would like to open it up to the entire school. If you are interested in creating a 5-10 minute film with other creative students, see the information below:

- Want to Act? Auditions are October 7th at 1 pm at [THIS HANGOUT LINK](#)
- Workshops taught by LA film and TV professionals are open to the entire school
 - Screenwriting Workshop Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 1pm. Sign up to attend [here](#). ([Zoom Link](#))

- Production management Workshop Friday Oct. 9th at 2:30pm. Sign up to attend [here](#). ([Zoom Link](#))
- Audio Engineering For Film and TV Workshop Wed. Oct. 14th at 1pm. Sign up to attend [here](#). ([Zoom Link](#))
- Editing For Film and TV Workshop Wed. Oct. 28th at 1pm. Sign up to attend [here](#). ([Zoom Link](#))

MAP Virtual Open House: September 24, 6pm



MAP Parents, and any other interested parties, please join us for a quick **virtual tour of the MAP Annex and Lab** (e.g., Green Screen, voice over equipment, computers and so much more). Open House will include guided virtual tours from MAP Student Leaders, program overview from Media Arts Coordinator, Natasha Ritchie, Media Arts Program Booster Info, and Questions and Answers. To join, here is the [Zoom Link](#) (Meeting ID: 878 8189 9392, Passcode: mediaarts).

Donations to MAP are Appreciated

If you could make a much needed and greatly appreciated donation to the MAP Boosters to help with regular technology upgrades and much more, please send checks to the high school, made out to MAP Boosters or via PayPal at SHSMAPSMASHN@GMAIL.COM. A suggested donation of \$175.00 would be tremendous.

Get Involved with MAP

If you're interested in joining the MAP Booster Board, we'd love to have you. Please contact Sandi Payne at sandi@thepaynes.org.

Shop at AmazonSmile--Support Saratoga Music Boosters!!



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as [Amazon.com](#). The ONLY difference is [AmazonSmile Foundation](#) will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Make sure you select Saratoga Music Boosters, Saratoga, CA as your charity!!

Visit us at [AmazonSmile](#) for easy set-up steps. YOU SHOP ... AMAZON GIVES ... SMB BENEFITS!!

DeltaX Hacks STEM Opportunity, September 26-27

DeltaX Hacks (deltaxhacks.com) is planning a free, weekend-long online hackathon. DeltaX Hacks is an online hackathon organized by college and high school students September 26-27. Attendees will have the opportunity to work with a team to build out a project using code, learn real-world programming, pitching, and development skills from industry leaders, and share their project for the opportunity to win prizes from our \$25,000 prize pool!

The event is completely free, and every attendee will receive \$25 worth of software from their sponsors! More information and sign-ups are available at our website deltaxhacks.com.

Speaker Event: Mary Beth Tinker, October 6

Don't miss the chance to hear from a textbook figure!! Mary Beth Tinker of the Tinker v. Des Moines case will be speaking with Next Generation Politics Silicon Valley about her experience in the Supreme Court case and what it means for students' right to freedom of speech. Join us on Tuesday October 6th @ 5:00pm to find out what led to the famous majority decision "it can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate" and what are its legacies. Sign up here: bit.ly/ngp-tinker. Space is limited!

Prospective Engineers Mentorship

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is hosting a 10 week long mentorship program to support female and non-binary high school seniors who are interested in applying to engineering majors. There will be weekly sessions with UC Davis College of Engineering advisors, faculty, current students, and alumni, as well as smaller group mentorship sessions with current engineering students to help answer questions and provide individualized support. The program will run from September 24th to November 22nd and is open to high school seniors who identify as female or non-binary. The registration form can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/swe-prospective>

K-12 Coastal Art and Poetry Contest 2021

California students are invited to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the Coastal Art & Poetry Contest, presented by the California Coastal Commission. Entries can be submitted online until midnight January 31st. For rules, contest flyer, entry form (and helpful links for teachers and students), please visit www.coastal.ca.gov/art-poetry. The instructions, flyer, and entry form are also available in [Spanish](#). Up to ten winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply store (for artists) or book store (for poets). Each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$50 gift certificate for educational supplies, courtesy of [Acorn Naturalists](#). Students may have their work featured on Commission web pages and materials, and winners and honorable mentions will be exhibited throughout the state, as conditions allow.

RESOURCES

Student Attendance Reminder

When calling in an absence for a student, please spell the last name of your student, provide your student's ID number, and identify the period number if you are calling due to connectivity issues. If your student was present in class, but was marked absent, they need to contact the teacher to verify their attendance. The teacher will clear the absence through the Attendance office.

Remote Learning Technology Needs

Families with additional technology needs are encouraged to email techsupport@lgsuhd.org or call an Administrator. All of our SHS students should be able to connect to live instruction, participate with their peers, and use their webcam.

School Supplies/Textbook Pickup

School supplies and textbooks can be picked up or dropped off at the Textbook Room (next to the library) from 12pm-3pm, Monday through Friday. If you have any textbook or school supply questions, feel free to contact Mr. Torrens at mtorrens@lgsuhd.org.

School Closure Guidance Counselor FAQ

Guidance counselors regularly update an [FAQ during this school closure period](#). Check it out!

Remote Learning Student and Parent Guide

Please review our [Remote Learning Student and Parent Guide for Fall 2020](#). This guide has timely information and resources as we start the school year.