Friday Letter: January 24, 2020

Good afternoon!

During this four day week, we celebrated “Speak Up for Change” week, beginning with our school-wide assembly kicking off our theme of “Know No.” The students, Arya Mididaddi, Ritika Kuppam, and Ryan Le and teachers Hana Chen, Bret Yeilding, and Alex Hemmerich all shared inspiring stories, giving us new insights and empathy in the lives of each other. On Wednesday, Outreach Commission “grew” a tree in the Student Center where students wrote examples in their lives of standing up for themselves. On Thursday, our Girl Up Club, hosted an engaging panel presentation on how to support each other in relationships. This peer to peer discussion was inspiring. On Friday, several students participated in the service project for Sunday Friends (picture to the left) at tutorial, illustrating the importance of empathy and service in our lives. At lunch, we hosted a panel discussion of 2019 graduates who shared their paths in college. Also, our wonderful CASSY team sponsored a “Patience Painting” in the Wellness Center.

If Friday wasn’t busy enough, the Saratoga High School PTSO hosted the wonderful Lunar New Year Luncheon for staff and District leadership and tonight, the Drama program opens their student production: “Crimes of the Heart”; Basketball travels to Lynbrook (Women’s JV 3pm/ Mens’ F/S 4:30pm/ Women’s V 6:15pm/ Men’s V 7:45pm); Women’s Soccer plays at Mountain View (3:30pm) and Men’s Soccer hosts Milpitas (3:30pm).

Next week, we return to a five day week. Monday and Tuesday, teachers will learn how to use the TeachMore tutorial accounting program, in advance of the School Wide Lesson for students. In addition, on Monday evening, we will have our Electives Night for new Saratoga High School families; the “ACS Substance Use and Abuse Information Night” hosted by PTSO will be on Tuesday night, our second “Parents Teas” will be Thursday morning, the “Incoming Junior Parent” meeting and the “Incoming Senior Parent” meeting will be on Thursday night, and the start of the Drama program’s student production, “You Have the Right to Remain Dead” begins Friday night.

Here’s an overview for the next week:

Saturday, January 25:
- CoEd Varsity Wrestling at Varsity Classic
- 2020 Charlie Wedemeyer High School All Star Football Game, 6pm (Westmont)
- Student Drama Production: “Crimes of the Heart,” 7pm

Sunday, January 26:
- Student Drama Production: “Crimes of the Heart,” 2pm

Monday, January 27: (RED Day)
- Tutoring Center open (3:45pm-5pm)
- Chinese New Year Celebration performance (Lunch)
- Electives Night, 6:30pm
Tuesday, January 28: (BLUE Day)
● Tutoring Center open (2:15pm-5pm)
● Women’s Basketball vs. Cupertino (JV 5:30pm/ V 7pm)
● ACS Substance Use and Abuse Info Night, 6:30pm (Community Room)

Wednesday, January 29: (RED Day)
● Tutoring Center open (3:45pm-5pm)
● Incoming Senior Class meeting in the McAfee at Tutorial
● Women’s Soccer vs. Santa Clara (3:30pm)
● Men’s Soccer at Gunn HS (JV 3:30pm/ V 5:30pm)
● Men’s Basketball vs. Gunn HS (FS 5:30pm/ V 7pm)

Thursday, January 30: (BLUE Day)
● Tutoring Center open (2:15pm-5pm)
● Parent Tea (10:30-11:30) Community Room
● CoEd Wrestling at Mountain View HS (JV 5:30pm/ V 6pm)
● SHS Booster Presidents Meeting, 6pm

Friday, January 31: (RED Day)
● Incoming Junior Class meeting in the McAfee at Tutorial
● Men’s Basketball at Santa Clara HS (FS 3pm/ V 7:45pm)
● Men’s Soccer vs. Lynbrook (3:30pm)
● Women’s Soccer at Los Gatos (3:30pm)
● Women’s Basketball at Los Gatos (JV 4:30pm/ V 6:15pm)
● Student Production: “You Have the Right to Remain Dead,” 7pm

Saturday, February 1:
● Student Production: “You Have the Right to Remain Dead,” 2pm and 7pm

IN OTHER NEWS...

Congratulations to Shannon Ma
Shannon Ma (9) was notified recently she was one of the few students in the U.S. accepted to compete in the Menuhin Competition, arguably the most significant competition among violinists of its kind. Out of countless applicant auditions, Shannon is one of 40 accepted from 18 countries. The application/audition process consists of her sending in recorded auditions, as well as recommendation letters from artist educators. Here is the link to the Menuhin Competition website and here is a link to Shannon’s page.

Upcoming Guidance Presentations
● Electives Night: Monday, January 27, 6:15pm-8pm, McAfee
● Incoming Junior Parent Meeting: Thursday, January 30, 7pm-9pm, McAfee
● Incoming Senior Parent Meeting: Thursday, January 30, 7pm-9pm, Library
● Incoming Sophomore Parent Meeting, Tuesday, February 4, 7pm-9pm, McAfee
● Incoming Freshmen Parent Meeting, Thursday, February 6, 7pm-9pm, McAfee
ACS Presentation: Adolescent Substance Use & Abuse: A Counseling Perspective, Tuesday, January 28

Please join us on Tuesday, January 28, from 6:30pm-8:30pm in the SHS Community Room to learn more about Teenage Psychosocial Development and effective ways to better communicate with your teen and support teens in making healthy life choices. This is for SHS Parents only. Please signup online through Signup Genius so we can set up accordingly. This is a PTSO & LGSUHSD sponsored Parent Education event. Here is the link to review the flyer.

Upcoming Drama Productions

Over the next two weekends, Saratoga Theatre Arts will be producing two different student-directed productions! On January 24th-26th, we will be presenting the classic American family drama, Beth Henley's Crimes of the Heart. This play tells the story of the three MaGrath sisters, who have to overcome their differences in personality and lifestyle to band together when one of them is accused of attempted murder. This beloved drama mixes the profound and the comedic to create a realistic, fun, and moving story. This show is recommended for ages 12 and up for some reference to mature themes. Performances are Friday the 24th and Saturday the 25th at 7pm, and Sunday at 2pm.

The following week, we'll transition into an audience-interactive murder mystery! You Have the Right to Remain Dead, by Pat Cook, tells the story of a troupe of actors - and their intrepid director and lone tech crew members - trying to produce a murder mystery play. When someone gets murdered for real, however, everyone in the theater is a possible suspect: including you! This zany and original comedy is appropriate for audiences of all ages. Performances are Friday January 31st and Saturday February 1st at 2pm AND 7pm (so that we can all enjoy the Super Bowl on Sunday afternoon)!

Tickets for both shows will be sold at the performances up to half an hour in advance; $7 for students/seniors, and $10 for general admission.

Parent Teas, Thursday, January 30, 10:30am

We extend an invitation to parents to join the administration and other staff at our second Parent Tea of the semester on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 10:30-11:30 am in the Community room. This is a casual event with an eye on dialoguing about what's on the minds of families. We meet every other week.

St. Olaf Band West Coast Tour, January 31

One of America’s preeminent bands, the St. Olaf Band, conducted by Dr. Timothy Mahr, will perform at Saratoga High School’s McAfee Center on Friday, January 31 at 8pm during its 2020 West Coast Tour. Founded in 1891, the St. Olaf Band performs the very best compositions and transcriptions for symphonic band, producing an exciting, crowd-pleasing style. Tickets are $10 for general admission, and free for all students.
SAVE THE DATE: Saratoga Music Boosters Jazz Cabaret
Our annual Saratoga Music Boosters Jazz Cabaret is just around the corner – Saturday, February 8th at 7pm! Join us as Jazz Cab 2020- For the love of JAZZ- overtakes and transforms the SHS Music Building into sparkling lighted splendor. For the love of JAZZ will feature the SHS and RMS Choirs, Vocalists, Combos and Jazz Ensembles. There will be desserts, a build-your-own candy and snack bar, games, and plenty of live music and dancing! Advanced online tickets can be purchased here ($15 for adults, $10 for students). All are invited, so bring out your family, friends, neighbors, anybody and everybody!

Speech and Debate Success!
Members of our Speech and Debate team recently enjoyed great success at the James Logan MLK Invitational Tournament:

- **Speech:**
  - Selina Chen in getting 1st in expository and getting a NIETOC bid.
  - Anouky Yeh and Aindiri Patra went into quarterfinals.
- **Debate:**
  - Adhit Sankaran and Ronak Pai were finalist and got the gold TOC bid.
  - Siva Sambasivam and Ayaan Haque made it to Octos and got their silver TOC bid.

Chinese New Year Celebration
In honor of Chinese New Year, during lunch on Monday, the following students will be perform in a celebration of music: Selina Chen, Elaine Liu, Joshua Zhang, Taylor Zhou, and Serena Li.

2020-2021 Bell Schedule Input Sessions
On behalf of the District’s Bell Schedule Evaluation (BSE) Planning Group we hope you can attend one of our upcoming stakeholder input sessions. This will be the second set of input sessions facilitated by the members of the BSE. We are seeking input on sample bell schedule possibilities for the 2020-2021 school year. For more information about the bell schedule evaluation process, please visit our website.

The sample bell schedules that will be presented, were developed by the BSE considering our parameters and the stakeholder input collected so far. The sample schedules are subject to change based on feedback. Our planning group hopes you can stop in at one of the upcoming designated days/times and share your thoughts.

January/February Input Session Information

- **LGHS & SHS Evening Parent Drop-in Input Session**, Saratoga High School- Student Center, Thursday, January 30th, 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.
- **SHS PTSO Meeting Presentation**, Saratoga High School-Cafeteria, Thursday, February 6, 2020, 8:30 a.m. followed by Input Session in the SHS Student Center
- **SHS Staff, Student & Parent Drop-in Input Sessions**, Saratoga High School- Student Center, Thursday, February 6, 2020, 8:30-3:00 p.m.
Yearbook Sales

Order Your Yearbook

To order a copy of the 2020 Talisman yearbook, families can now order online using our Saratoga High School webstore! Please click here to access our webstore and order your yearbook. Families can also bring a check for $100 to the Activities Office. The check should be made out to Saratoga High. If your student already has an ASB package, they automatically get a yearbook. Please order your yearbook now to ensure your student a copy when the books are distributed in late May.

Only those who preorder a book are guaranteed a copy of the Talisman during distribution.

‘TOGA ATHLETICS

Winter Sports Updates

Here are the results of this past week. If your sport is not here, it is because I did not receive any details before sending this out. Please feel free to send scores, stats, and narrative to Greg Louie at glouie@lgsuhsd.org with the email title “For Friday Letter: ‘Toga Athletics.”

January 22:
  ● Women’s Varsity Soccer falls to Homestead High School 3-0.

January 21:
  ● Women’s Varsity Basketball beat Wilcox High School 46-38. Saratoga Varsity Girls played hard and pulled off a great win.

2020 Charlie Wedemeyer High School All Star Football Game

The 2020 Charlie Wedemeyer High School All-Star Football game is on Saturday, January 25th at 6pm at Westmont HS. Tickets are $15.00. This is your chance to watch four of your Saratoga Senior All-Stars: George Bian, Tyler Ochida, Talon Sisco, and Payton Stokes. Coaches Tim Lugo and Bret Yielding are also on the South Coaching staff. Here is the link to the 2020 Charlie Wedemeyer High School All-Star website.

Tutoring Center Now Open After School

Our Tutoring Center is open, Monday through Thursday until 5pm. We have a couple of community volunteer tutors signed up to help with math and science. Also, if you would like to help peer tutor, please see Principal Louie. Here is the schedule for next week.

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Wellness Center Happenings from Ms. Barnes
The Wellness Center participated in Speak Up for Change week by hosting a Peaceful Painting (Drawing) during lunch today. We asked students to describe a time where they said no or a time where they could not say no and represent this through words or images. Thank you to all who participated. We will continue this offering this week for those who want to finish their drawing or start one.

Falcon's Nest special for the week of January 26th is "PASTA FIZULE". Pasta with a choice of Marinara, Alfredo or Creamy Pesto Sauce $4.00 each. Add meatballs or diced chicken for a total of $4.50.

The themed salad bar is "ITALIANA". A large salad is $5.00 and small $4.00. Add a cup of diced chicken for $.75.

Thank you! I hope you had a great week and enjoy a fantastic weekend.

Sincerely,

Greg Louie, Principal