Friday Letter: November 22, 2019
Good afternoon!

This week, Saratoga High School parents, students, and staff were very involved in discussions about student well-being and community values. From discussing how the School Profile should represent Saratoga High School and benefit our graduating Seniors to analyzing and discussing findings in the California Healthy Kids Survey at Wednesday night’s World Cafe event, the Saratoga High School community is all in for ensuring Saratoga High School’s excellence academically, social-emotionally, and psychologically.

Monday and Tuesday night, we had our Winter Sports Team Meetings to discuss sportsmanship, communication, expectations and fundraising. Tuesday night was also the LGSUHSD Board Study Session regarding the upcoming bell schedule revisions and the LGSUHSD Board meeting, where some of our parents spoke to share their perspectives about the use of GPA information in the 2019-20 School Profile. On Wednesday, more than 50 students, staff and parents participated in the World Cafe event to review student emotional wellness and what more we can do as a community, school, parents, and students to ensure a healthy learning environment. On Thursday, the WASC Focus Group leaders met to review goals and in the afternoon, we had our School Site Council meeting.

Tonight and Saturday night, our fantastic Fall Play, “Sense and Sensibility,” performance is at 7:30pm in the McAfee theater.

Next week is a quick two day week before a long Thanksgiving weekend and when we return we begin the stretch run to the end of the Fall semester.

Here’s an overview for the next two weeks (no “Friday Letter for Families” next week)

Saturday, November 23:
  ● Women’s Basketball at Half Moon Bay High School, JV 9:30am/V 11am
  ● Men’s JV Basketball vs. Palo Alto High School, 1pm
  ● Men’s Varsity Basketball at Santa Cruz High School, 5pm
  ● Fall Play: Sense and Sensibility, 7:30pm, McAfee

Monday, November 25: (RED Day)
  ● Men’s Basketball at Piedmont Hills High School, JV 5:30pm/V 7pm

Tuesday, November 26: (BLUE Day)
  ● Men’s Soccer vs. Harker, 3:30pm
  ● Women’s Basketball vs. Leigh High School, JV 5:30pm/V 7pm

Wednesday, November 27: (No School: Thanksgiving Holiday)
  ● Men’s Basketball vs. Silver Creek High School, JV 5:30pm/V 7pm

Thursday, November 28: (No School: Thanksgiving Holiday)
  ● HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
Friday, November 29: (No School: Thanksgiving Holiday)
- Women’s Basketball Varsity Alumni Game, 4:30pm
- Men’s Basketball Varsity Alumni Game, 6pm

Saturday, November 30:
- Men’s Basketball at Branham High School, JV 4:30pm/V 6pm

Monday, December 2: (RED Day)

Tuesday, December 3: (BLUE Day)
- Women’s Varsity Basketball at Fremont Tournament
- Men’s Soccer vs. Leigh High School, 3:30pm
- Women’s JV Basketball at Sacred Heart, 5pm
- Conerto Competition, 6pm, McAfee

Wednesday, December 4: (RED Day)
- Women’s Varsity Basketball at Fremont Tournament

Thursday, December 5: (BLUE Day)
- Women’s Varsity Basketball at Fremont Tournament
- Women’s JV Soccer at Los Gatos, 3:30pm
- Men’s Soccer vs. Leland, 3:30pm
- Women’s JV Basketball vs. Pinewood HS, 5pm
- Band Winter Concert, 7pm, McAfee

Friday, December 6: (RED Day)
- Men’s Basketball vs. Los Gatos, F 4pm, JV 5:30pm, V 7pm
- Comedy Sportz, 7pm

Saturday, December 7:
- Women’s JV Basketball at Half Moon Bay High School
- Winter Formal, 7:30pm-10:30pm, Gym

IN OTHER NEWS...

SHS TV: November 21 Episode
Here is the most recent episode of the SHS TV Broadcast for November 21.

Fall Play: “Sense and Sensibility”
Our Fall Play, “Sense and Sensibility” is tonight and Saturday at 7:30 pm in the beautiful McAfee Center. All tickets are $10 and you can Buy Tickets Now.
Thanksgiving Week Lunch Time Events

On Monday and Tuesday, we will have a modified schedule to accommodate the extended lunches necessary for the Thanksgiving Week events. Please note that we will have a closed campus during lunch on both days.

- Monday we will be having the following;
  - Large gym: Dodgeball Tournament with all students
  - Small gym: Dodgeball Tournament with CBI students and select seniors
  - Quad: Ping Pong and Tic Tac Toe
  - Upper Field: Ultimate Frisbee

- Tuesday will be the Turkey Trot in behalf of Relay for Life on the track. There will be food trucks (think tacos and boba) and a raffle for air pods, hydroflasks, cameras, gift cards, etc. Come down to the field, walk a few laps, and enter the raffle!!

Here is the schedule:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Blue Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8:15-9:40 (85)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>9:40-10:10 (30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10:15-11:40 (85)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>11:40-12:40 (60)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>12:45-2:10 (85)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>12:10-12:20 (10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2:20-3:45 (85)</td>
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Relay for Life and Turkey Trot, November 26

On November 26, 2019, during the extended lunch Saratoga High School will be hosting a Relay for Life/Turkey Trot walk-a-thon at the track to spread awareness for cancer and fundraise for the American Cancer Society. Students and faculty members will learn about Relay for Life, visit different informational booths, participate in activities, enjoy delicious food from food trucks, and walk around the track to show their support for those battling cancer, survivors, and their families.

We are looking for volunteers to help run the event (such as distributing raffle tickets, managing activities, etc). If you are available, please fill sign up through [here](#).

We are also looking for prize donations for our raffle. If you would be willing to donate, please click [here](#). If you would like to donate directly to our team page on the official Relay for Life donation website, please click [here](#). Any amount is greatly appreciated. We hope that you will help make this event a success! Please contact relayforlifesaratoga@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.
Regional Honor Choir
These are the students who auditioned and made it into the Coastal Region Honor Choirs. There were over 400+ students who auditioned from as far north as Eureka and as far south as Gilroy, and only about 250 were accepted into these massive honor ensembles.

- SATB, Ashwini Achutharaman- Sop II
- SSAA, Ahana Chakraborty, Alto II, Alto
- SSAA, Ayushi Chakraborty, Alto II, Alto
- SSAA, Anjali Phalke, Sop II, Sop II
- SSAA, Uma Phalke, Sop II, Sop I
- TTBB, Akshar Sarvesh, Bass II, Bass
- SATB, Joshua Zhang, Bass II

They perform on Saturday, November 23 at the San Mateo PAC at 1:30pm and they get to work with some fantastic conductors: SATB: Dr. Shawna Stewart, Biola University, SSAA: Dr. Josh Palkki, California State University, Long Beach, and TTBB: Dr. Gene Peterson, California Baptist University. Congratulations again!!

Las Vegas Speech Tournament Results
Three speech competitors travelled to the Golden Desert Nietoc Speech Competition in Las Vegas, this past weekend. Harshini Velchamy competed in Oratory, and Selina Chen in Programed Oral Interpretation. Anouk Yeh took 6th place in Programed Oral Interpretation, and clinched her first national bid for Chicago. Congratulations!!

Coin Drive Updates
Two clubs ran two different coin drives in the month of November. The UNICEF Club ran a coin drive in their Math classes three weeks ago and raised just under $300. The Red Cross Club ran a coin drive in their Social Studies classes last week and raised just under $600. Thank you for your support!

Family Giving Tree
Family Giving Tree is up in the Main Office. Stop by and pick up a card. Gifts need to be unwrapped and returned by Friday, December 6th.

2019-2020 Saratoga High School Profile
Concerns about our original version of the 2019-20 School Profile included the plainness of our document, our GPA distribution table, and our Ethnic Diversity graph. We analyzed our past school profiles and a wide variety of school profiles from highly ranked schools throughout the country and the Bay Area, including Los Gatos HS. Also, we received a wide variety of input from students, staff, and parents regarding some of our drafts. Taking all things into consideration, we went to work on addressing the concerns and incorporating important details about our prestigious school.

For those anxious about the possible confusion of two 2019-20 School Profiles, there is zero reason for concern. Those universities who received Early Decision Applications from our
students will have a copy of our original 2019-20 school profile. Those universities receiving Regular Decision Applications will receive our new 2019-2020 SHS School Profile. In no way will either version of the 2019-20 school profile jeopardize our students’ chances to attend their desired college or university.

During the Spring semester, we will invite students, staff, and parents to a discussion of the purposes for and appropriate content and formatting of our School Profile ahead of the 2020-21 school year so that we best represent our amazing students and school.

SAVE THE DATE: December 12: Adolescent Substance Use & Abuse: A Counseling Perspective

Learn about LGSUHSD’s substance use support partnership for students & their families provided through Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS).

Senior Clinicians will be sharing information about their contract with the district, current adolescent substance use in the Bay Area, the adolescent developmental trajectory, warning signs of drug use problems, how parents can support their teens (and themselves!) during this time, and other resources available to families. There will be time for Q&A following the presentation. Here is a copy of the flyer. Please signup online through Signup Genius so we can set up appropriately.

SAVE THE DATE: BOOKMOBILE, December 19

Immediately following finals on Wednesday, December 19, the Saratoga Library will have its bookmobile in the quad. Stop by and take home some books to read over vacation. For more information, please check out the flyer.

Parents Volunteers Needed for Crossing Guard Roles

Thank you to the parents who assist the safe passage of our students. We still need more help. Please support our SHS students by serving as a morning crossing guard. Volunteers need to be fingerprinted. Helping students stay safe and helping drivers move orderly through the parking lot helps relieve the morning rush and brings calm to the beginning of the school day. If you can spare 30 minutes or so once a week, please use the link below to sign up. It's not only about traffic control--greeting the students in the morning is an important part of making them feel welcome on campus. We'll help anyone learn the ropes, and if you want to do it with a partner, it's all the more enjoyable! Sign up HERE.

Budget Advisory Committee membership vacancy

The LGUSHSD Budget Advisory Committee is looking for representation from the Saratoga High School community. We need a parent/guardian who has an interest in helping to explore cost saving opportunities and revenue enhancement opportunities, or propose approaches to improve budget related community awareness and support. The next BAC meeting is at the District Office on Monday, December 9 from 3pm-5pm. For more information, please contact Principal Greg Louie at 408-359-4204.
COMING SOON: TEDxSaratogaHighSchool, January 18, 2020

*We still need your help with speaker recommendations!* The TEDxSaratogaHighSchool event will be on Saturday, January 18th. The TEDx event incorporates a group of individuals who are brought in to showcase ideas worth spreading. For this year’s theme, “It Starts With Us,” we are looking for speakers who are taking initiative to promote change in their communities. Please fill out the TEDxSaratogaHighSchool Speakers form if you are interested in being a speaker or have a nomination. This is a big part of making the event happen so all efforts are appreciated!

![TEDx](image)

**'TOGA ATHLETICS**

Here are the results of this past week. If your sport is not here, please send scores, stats, and narrative to Greg Louie at glouie@lgsuhsd.org with the email title “For Friday Letter.”

**Basketball Game Ticket Prices**

Basketball season started last night with a scrimmage between our Men’s Basketball team and Aptos High School. Next week, we have:

- 11/26: Women’s Basketball vs. Leigh High School, JV 5:30pm/V 7pm
- 11/27: Men’s Basketball vs. Silver Creek High School, JV 5:30pm/V 7pm
- 11/29: Women’s Basketball Varsity Alumni Game, 4:30pm
- 11/29: Men’s Basketball Varsity Alumni Game, 6pm

Remember, SHS students with a valid ASB card and children under 6 years of age get in FREE to the game. Ticket prices are $6 for Adults, $3 for Senior Citizens and students without a valid ASB card.

**Soccer Season Starts**

Don’t miss the first soccer game of the season: November 26: Men’s Soccer vs. Harker, 3:30pm

**FALCON’S NEST CAFE**

Falcon's Nest Special for the week of November 25th is "OPEN FACED ROASTED TURKEY SANDWICHES WITH MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY", $4.50 each. Included in the special is a seeded french roll, cranberry sauce and a holiday cookie.

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

All the Falcon's Nest folks want to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.
HELP WANTED

We're looking for a few students to work during lunch. You'll be paid with a free lunch. Please come by and see Pam Carlino for more details.

Students, please make sure you have your ID cards.
We no longer take verbal numbers. You won't be able to purchase food if you don't have your card. If you don't have an ID card, get one in the office. You can also take a picture of it with your phone.

Thank you and I hope you have a fulfilling Thanksgiving break!!

Sincerely,

Greg Louie, Principal