

HOLMES Highlights

A NEWSLETTER
OF THE HOLMES
JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL PTA

www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/hjh

April 2011 ♦ Issue 7

Upcoming Events

- 3/25 End of Quarter 3
- 3/28 Positive School Climate Committee Meeting (3:45pm in the large conference room)
- 3/31 Open House (6:30-7:30pm)
- 4/4-8 **NO SCHOOL** - Holiday Spring Break
- 4/11 Site Council Meeting (4-6pm Holmes library)
- 4/20-5/3 STAR testing
- 4/22 Leadership Day #2
- 4/25 Positive School Climate Committee Meeting (3:45pm in the large conference room)
- 4/28 PTA Meeting (7-9pm Holmes library)
- 4/29 Mid-Quarter Progress Report Q4
- 5/2-6 Staff Appreciation Week
- 5/9 Site Council Meeting (4-6pm Holmes library)
- 5/18 Last late-start Wednesday
- 5/20 Mix-it-up day/School Dance #3 (7:30-10pm)
- 5/30 **NO SCHOOL** – Holiday Memorial Day
- 6/9 Last Day of School

A Message from Your PTA President, Christina Dicker

Spring is in the Air

Spring is in the air which means the end of the school year is close at hand. Before we all run off and enjoy a relaxing summer, there are a few items of business that still need attention.

Vote 'Yes' on Measure A! Davis schools continue to be hit hard by California's state budget crisis. Voters can help save educational programs and teacher jobs by supporting Measure A – a \$200 per year parcel tax for the next two years. Look for your mail-in ballot which will arrive the week of April 4. Ballots may be returned by mail or deposited in a ballot box at the Davis Branch of the Yolo County library until May 3. Please visit www.yesforourstudents.org for more information on Measure A. The Holmes Junior High PTA is doing our part to support Measure A by participating in a phone bank on Wednesday, April 20, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Coldwell Banker (425 2nd Street, Davis). Volunteers will be calling registered voters and reminding them to return the ballots by May 3. A phone script will be provided making this a very easy task! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me.

There are only two more chances to participate in PTA meetings this year. On April 28, at 7:00 pm, we will have our most important meeting of the year – we elect officers for next year's PTA. On May 26, at 7:00 pm, we will have our most fun meeting of the year – when we finish up remaining business and celebrate the end of a successful year for the PTA. Join us in the Holmes library to take part in these last two meetings.

Thank you everyone for all your hard work! Have a wonderful spring break!

~ **Christina Dicker**
cbd321@yahoo.com
(530) 753-7347

Counselors' Corner

Summer Plans

As we look towards the end of the year, we would like to provide information for summer planning.

Counselors often receive questions regarding potential summer activities in May, when it is too late to apply. Get ahead of the deadlines by researching opportunities now.

Summer school classes will be offered for students who will be in grades 7-12 during the 2011-2012 school year and who need credit recovery or to remediate D or F grades in required courses. Also, incoming 8th graders will be able to fulfill the Junior High Health requirement during summer school. If your child did not participate in the Junior High Health class offered during the lunchtime course option or if your child earned a failing grade (F) in English, Science, Social Studies and/or Mathematics, a counselor may contact you about having him or her take a class during summer school. Summer school will be held at Holmes Junior High. Six week/yearlong courses will be held June 20 to July 28 and will meet 5 days a week, excluding July 4. Three week/semester courses will be offered in 2 sessions: Session 1 will run from June 20 to July 8 and Session 2 will run from July 11 to July 28. All summer school classes will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 12:50 p.m. To access the summer school application, please refer to the district website (www.djUSD.net). If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your child's counselor: **Joanna Littell** (jlittell@djUSD.net), 7th grade and 9th grade last name starting in A-L or **Ashley Nelson** (anelson@djUSD.net), head counselor, 8th grade and 9th grade last name starting in M-Z.

Summer programs usually require prior planning. The Davis Wiki (http://daviswiki.org/Children's_Summer_Programs) offers information regarding various programs offered locally, including:

- Academic Talent Search - This is a non-profit program offered through CSUS for incoming 6th through 9th grades. (<http://edweb.csus.edu/projects/ATS/>)

- COSMOS - Academically talented and motivated students who are interested in math, science and engineering and are completing grades 8-12 are eligible for this UC Davis affiliated program. (<http://www.cosmos.ucdavis.edu/>)
- Summer Day Camps at UC Davis - Various summer programs are offered to UC Davis students and non students. (<http://campusrecreation.ucdavis.edu>)

Summer employment and volunteer opportunities are addressed on the City of Davis sponsored "Davis Teen Scene" website (<http://www.davisteenscene.org/special-events.shtml>). The Davis Wiki also provides some links on volunteer opportunities (http://daviswiki.org/volunteer_opportunities). Consider contacting the Food Bank of Yolo County (<http://www.foodbankyc.org/volunteer.htm>) or the UC Davis Recycling Program (http://sustainability.ucdavis.edu/news/2011/january/waste_reduction.html) for other ideas about volunteering. For more information about work permits, contact counseling registrar, Judy Stafford (jstafford@djUSD.net).

Online classes may not be the best option for getting ahead academically. Our DSHS counselors report that online classes are considered to be less rigorous than the high school classes. When considering online classes, make sure that they are offered through an accredited high school and that the classes are UC/CSU a-g approved where applicable. Students will be expected to locate this information on their own by using the University of California search engine (<https://doorways.ucop.edu>). Online classes will only be posted to the high school transcript if they are comparable to the classes offered at the high school and are required for graduation from high school. Become familiar with the Davis Senior High School Counseling Department's Q&A for answers to questions that might arise (<http://dhs.djUSD.k12.ca.us/files/counseling/index.html>).

~ **Ashley Nelson & Joanna Littell**
Counselors

Davis: A Unique Tradition of Local Support

Davis has supported education through local parcel taxes since 1984. Prior measures in Davis have passed with 71% to 75% of the vote. This is a record shared with only a handful of districts in California.

Between April 4 and May 3, voters in the Davis Joint Unified School District will be asked via a mail-in ballot to preserve classroom and educational programs by authorizing Measure A. This measure, if approved, will assess homeowners \$200 per year and apartment owners \$20 per unit per year. The tax will last for two years and requires the approval of two-thirds of voters who vote in this election.

Classroom programs that make Davis schools unique are at risk without a funding source. Davis schools benefit from the availability of teachers and staff to support the academic experience of all our students. Approval of the Measure A will allow the District to retain:

- ✓ Classes in core subjects such as science and history
- ✓ Reducing class sizes for K-6, secondary English and math
- ✓ Foreign languages
- ✓ Elective course offerings
- ✓ Counseling services
- ✓ School site safety and support staff

For more information, visit www.DJUSD.net and click on Hot Topics "Measure A" or www.DistrictDollars.org for detailed information on the DJUSD budget.

DavisPARENTSDO

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! Students begin to experience spring fever as temperatures warm up. That's when partying and peer pressure to experiment with, use and/or abuse alcohol or other substances may also increase.

Be an informed parent about where and why teens turn to alcohol or other substances to get high. A good place to start is at the www.DavisParentsDo.com website. Know your children's friends and their parents. Know where they are at all times and utilize our website's pledge list to monitor partying. Or, follow some of our helpful links to websites that are full of information on the subject of teen alcohol or substance use.

Another potentially strong contributor driving students to make the harmful decision to use alcohol or substances are increased pressures at school. During this time of the year, our seniors are preparing for college. Juniors and sophomores are in the middle of large assignments and projects. Even freshmen can experience the pressures of adjusting to the demanding workload of high school as some are involved in extracurricular activities and sports or clubs. Even junior high students are susceptible to increased levels of stress at this time of the year.

Be aware that in order to cope with overwhelming stress, a student may choose to turn to alcohol or substance use. Watch your child carefully for signs of stress. If they are exhibiting physical signs of stress such as stomach aches, headaches, frequent colds and insomnia, they might need some attention. Emotional symptoms may also be evident. Increased irritability or unusual outbursts of anger, rage, or crying may also be signs of stress.

Practical Tips:

1. Talk to your teen. Empower them to cope in an effective manner by reminding him/her that choosing alcohol or substances is not an option. They are not only harmful but they can have long-term health and developmental implications.
2. Have your teen create a personal stress management guide. Find tips and a helpful template of one at <http://www.aap.org/stress/teen1-a.cfm>.

This Month's Parental Awareness Dates: Spring Break is April 4-8. Your child might need some additional coaching/planning on alternative plans for spending the days outside of school.

DavisPARENTSDO is a parent education committee of secondary schools parent groups that promotes increasing awareness of teen alcohol and other substance use in Davis. For more information, see our website at davisparentsdo.org.

SAVEAGALLON CONTEST UPDATES

Hooray, spring is almost upon us! Get those muscles fit for the Bike Loopalooza on May 22 by riding to school. Check out the prizes on www.saveagallon.org/Davis_School_Contest. As of 2/28/2011 here's how the Saveagallon race looked districtwide:

School Team, most days logged: **North Davis**, 411 days.

Elementary Classroom Team, most days logged: **North Davis**-Mrs. Yackzan, 77.

Secondary Classroom Team, most days logged: **Emerson**-Nayar, 104

Total number of miles logged this month districtwide: **3,201 miles**.

Total Number of gallons saved this month districtwide: **190 gallons**.

Total Tons of CO2 saved this month district-wide: **2 tons**.

For their February efforts, students with usernames jmau, heatherlin and lilyin are being contacted. They will receive a bike computer from Freewheeler, a Bike Glow Light, or a B&L \$25 labor certificate. Three students with the most number of days logged during the month of March will win a bike computer donated by Freewheeler Bikes (keep track of your miles on the computer!), a labor certificate to B&L Bike Shop, or a Bike Glow safety light. Two students in April will win a labor certificate to B&L Bike Shop or a Bike Glow safety light. Remember the basic contest rule: If the miles logged would normally have been in your family car, you can count them; if the car wouldn't have been started, they don't count.

Questions about the contest? Contact chrystal2waters@yahoo.com

Questions about the Saveagallon website? Contact info@saveagallon.org

Un-Fundraiser a Big Success Thanks to YOU!

Thank you to each and every family and faculty member who contributed to this year's successful Un-Fundraiser! We have pushed over our goal and have raised more than \$11,000 which will directly benefit every student at Holmes Jr. High School. This month the PTA thanks the following families for their generous donations: Albertson, Borowsky, Foley, Jenks-Asay, Li-Fan, Meadows-Smith, Reynolds, Sherwin, and Silver.

~ **Shelley Bronzan**
Holmes PTA
Un-Fundraiser Coordinator

Library News

"Battle of the Books" will be Friday, April 15 in the MPR. Seventh grade teams will read *Blood on the River*, *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, *Peter and the Starcatchers*, *Chains*, *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Ender's Shadow*. We can't wait!

~ **Amy Labson**
Librarian

Announcement to the 9th grade parents

DHS is currently trying to fill some vital PTA board and committee positions for next year. Specifically DHS is very much in need a person for the class of 2014 listserv. If you are a parent of an incoming 10th grader who might be interested in helping with the DHS PTA next year, please contact **Carolee Gregg**, DHS VP in charge of communications, at clbgregg@aol.com or **Christina Dicker** at cbd321@yahoo.com.

Math Department News

Soon your children will receive their course request forms for the next academic year. A signature is required from the current math teacher with the recommendation for the next math course. Teacher recommendations are based on current grades, test scores and study habits. Geometry teachers base their recommendation on the student's Algebra I **and** Geometry grades as they decide between the accelerated Algebra II/Trig class or Algebra II.

All recommendations in mathematics are reevaluated in June when final exams are completed, so changes can occur. If you do not feel the recommended math level is appropriate for your child, please contact their teacher.

STAR testing is coming soon, so math students will be asked to review many previously-learned topics. There is also pressure to complete as much of the current year's curriculum before the May testing as well, so this is a busy time of the year. The State tests do not allow calculators, so arithmetic speed and accuracy drills may appear in homework that say "NO calculator".

The math department would like to thank the PTA for their support of Pi Week. Students were busy reciting, looking up pi trivia, designing T-shirts and creating mathematical songs all to celebrate our favorite irrational, π . Wow - what a pi day turnout! Record breaking recitations in full classrooms! Triple Digit winners are Krystal P, Max K and Teddy K. Grand Prize Winner (no one ever even close) was Ivan T with 2771 digits. Amazing!

Lastly, a general message to please check your child's backpack for supplies - pencils/pens and paper are needed till the end!

~ **Pat King**
Math Department

Renaissance and Civil War Days Sponsored by the Holmes PTA

The Holmes Renaissance and Civil War Days are Tuesday May 10 and Wednesday May 11, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:20 p.m. This is a call for volunteer parents!

The Social Studies Department and the entire Holmes faculty would like to thank the Holmes PTA for once again supporting the Living History Days here at Holmes in the spring.

In order to provide the best experience for the 7th and 8th grade students, parents or guardians are encouraged to participate during the Renaissance & Civil War Day Experience! Volunteer parents will be used to accompany student groups, help with lunch supervision and with supporting the Living History Presenters.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact **Mr. Dufresne** at mdufresne@djud.net

Green Team Celebrates Earth Day

Four Action Teams are making preparations in celebration of Earth Day, April 22. The Green Team is working in tandem with leadership to prepare events for the single lunch on Friday April 22. The DOT (Do One Thing) Action Team arranged a gmail account to help in collecting DOT's from students campus-wide. We're planning a series of DOT Days accompanied by a DOT meter/thermometer reflecting the number of DOTs students have suggested.

Two Action Teams are working on getting Green Team T-shirts printed by Ink Monkey. A school-wide competition was held in March. Hopefully, the winning design will be printed in time for the Earth Day events.

The Art Action Team is working with Ms. LaFlamme this month to repaint the artwork that is flaking off the recycling bins.

The Recycling Action Team continues to encourage recycling on campus. We've created new "Go to the head of the lunch line" passes, distributed randomly to students "caught" recycling.

Green Team encourages parents and families to celebrate Earth Day by "Doing One Thing" (DOT) today for Mother Earth. Happy Earth Day!

~ **Martha Quenon**
Science Teacher

Nurse's Notes

Important T-Dap Information

In response to the resurgence of pertussis and the rising epidemic of the disease in Southern California over this last year, the California Legislature passed a statute to require a T-Dap (pertussis) booster for all children *entering* grades 7 through 12 in the Fall of 2011. Before school opening next fall, the school district must have documentation of this shot for all these children before we can seat them in class. Parents/guardians might want to use the spring break to take care of this important task. Please send the documentation to your school site office as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Too Tired or Hurried for Breakfast?

Tired when you wake up? Stomach aches and headaches by 10 a.m., starving by lunch? Hard to focus and pay attention? Did you skip breakfast? So many students are not eating a healthy breakfast or any breakfast at all before coming to school. This affects your ability to be alert, focus and learn in school. Snack breaks are built into the school schedule, so take advantage of these opportunities to eat a quick snack. Pack quick and easy things into your lunch boxes or backpacks and eat regularly. Not only will you feel better, but you'll have a better day at school!

Leadership Events

We in the Holmes Jr. High Leadership Class are excited to end the year in a big way. Inspirational speaker Keith Hawkins, who motivates students to overcome the challenges faced by today's youth, will be visiting our campus. Thanks to a generous donation from the Holmes PTA, Mr. Hawkins will be speaking to the entire campus on April 12. The class is also planning an Earth Day event on Friday, April 22, to celebrate the steps our school has taken to be green; this day is marked with cookie decorations, tie-dye stations, scavenger hunt, dress-up contest, a door decoration contest and lots more. The class is already planning Day on the Green, which has been moved to June 6. We need parent volunteers for supervision; if you would like to help please contact Mr. Williams at bwilliams@djud.net. Volunteers will help make the day safe and fun for everyone. The hours of the event are 12:30 though 3:20 p.m. Parents do not have to volunteer for the entire time. Thank you.

~ **Bill Williams** and the Holmes Junior High Leadership Class

7th and 8th grade Track and Field

Track season has started! If you have a 7th or 8th grader that is interested in joining the largest sport on campus, please have them see Miss Hogan in B-23 or Mr. King in H-49 to pick up paperwork. Practices run Monday-Thursday from 3:45-5:15 p.m., with meets on Thursdays. The season runs up through May 19, with that being the final meet of the season. Our emphasis is to make this a fun sport for numerous kids to participate in, but also give them experience at being a part of a team. We promote good sportsmanship, camaraderie, as well as school spirit. Here's to a great season!

If you have questions please feel free to contact **Miss Hogan** at khogan@djud.net.

Holmes Staff Appreciation Week

Holmes Staff Appreciation Week (SAW) will be celebrated during the week of May 2-6. Please consider getting involved to make the teachers and staff feel appreciated all week long! Each day we will "shower" our beloved Holmes staff with goodies and treats. We will also accept donations of gift cards or gift baskets of "treats" to raffle off during SAW for our staff. Another way to get involved is to donate your time during that week: I will be looking for 5 helpers to sign up for one day of the week each to help oversee that the Staff Room is set up each day and then cleaned up and left ready for the next day. For more details, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from everyone who is interested soon! Thank you.

~ **Sally Albertson**
Chair of Hospitality
sallyalbertson@comcast.net

Last Month for Yearbooks

April is the last month you can preorder your yearbook. Sales close April 30th in order to prepare for distribution. The current price is \$40. Books can only be purchased online at www.jostens.com. We no longer take orders at the school site. Currently there are less than 65 books available for pre-purchase. Any remaining books will be sold on a first-come basis for \$45 in June, on the day of distribution. Direct any questions to Mrs. Leveque at dleveque@djustd.net.

~ **Deanna Leveque**
Art Dept. Coordinator
Yearbook Advisor

SCRIP CARD TOTALS ADD UP

Spring is in the air - time to dust off those scrip cards and start shopping!

When you use your scrip cards at Nugget, Safeway, or SaveMart, up to 4 percent of your receipts are donated to Holmes PTA. When you use your Jamba Juice card, they will donate 10 percent! The totals really do add up and make a difference for our students; please remember to use them every time you shop! Contact Julia Grim glen_julia_julian@sbcglobal.net or 530-753-8932 (eves) if you need new or replacement cards. Thank you!

~ **Julia Grim**
Scrip Coordinator

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