

# HOLMES Highlights

A NEWSLETTER  
OF THE HOLMES  
JUNIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL PTA

[www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/hjh](http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/hjh)

February 2010 ♦ Issue 4

## Upcoming Events

- 2/8 Positive School Climate Committee, 4:00 p.m., Large Conference Room
- 2/8 Site Council Meeting, 3:45 p.m., Library
- 2/9 Academic Talent Search Testing, 3:30 p.m., B19
- 2/10 Parent Education Night, 7:00 p.m., Holmes MPR
- 2/15 Lincoln's Holiday – No school
- 2/19 Single Lunch for Mix-It-Up activities; lunch 11:50 – 12:35
- 2/22 Washington's Holiday– No School
- 2/25 Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- 2/25 Pizza Sale, 6:30 p.m.
- 2/25 PTA Meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., (after open house) in the Library
- 2/26 Mid-quarter progress report for Quarter 3
- 3/2 7<sup>th</sup> Grade STAR Test for writing
- 3/3 7<sup>th</sup> Grade STAR Test Makeup
- 3/5 Career Day
- 3/8 Positive School Climate Committee, 10:00 a.m., Large Conference Room
- 3/8 Site Council Meeting, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Library
- 3/11 Secondary Articulation Day – early dismissal at 12:30 p.m.
- 3/12 Battle of the Books in the multipurpose room

### *A Message from the Principal, Derek Brothers*

## Open House Coming Up

Welcome to the second half of the school year. I encourage you to attend our Open House on Thursday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to visit our beautiful facility, see examples of the kind of work your students do, and learn about some of the elective courses your students might be interested in for next year.

### **UN-FUNDRAISER**

Thanks to our generous parent community, the PTA Un-Fundraiser raised over \$10,000 to give our students these exciting experiences this year:

The Holmes Junior High PTA will present Matthew Boger, a consultant to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, who will speak to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades about his survival as the victim of a hate crime and his hopeful message of reconciliation and forgiveness. Parents are welcome to attend.

All 7<sup>th</sup> graders will take part in a portrayal of the Renaissance Era and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will experience a reenactment of Civil War battles. During

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### *A Message from Your PTA President, Cathy Farman*

## Remember, We Are One Community

Thank you to the parents who supported our Un-Fundraiser this year. Once again, we met our fundraising goal and will be able to support exciting, curriculum-supporting activities for every grade level. Thank you also to Janice Purnell, who coordinated parent help with the December Toy Shop.

In my October column, I spoke about how the statewide cuts in education funding would affect Holmes this school year, noting that although Holmes had very few staff members cut, each staff member was carrying a larger load. Current estimates are that, for next year, DJUSD will be forced to cut an additional \$5.9 million from its budget.

Fundraising efforts from the past will not address these **new cuts** to DJUSD's budget. Please keep yourself informed about future cutbacks in DJUSD's budget – they are inevitable and will be substantial. Come to PTA meetings, watch or attend school board meetings, and read your local newspaper – these are all ways to find out what is going on in this community. And please remember if and when you are advocating for or against particular cuts to the DJUSD budget: we are one community and must do what is best for all children in all schools.

**-- Cathy Farman, Holmes PTA President [cfarman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cfarman@sbcglobal.net)**

# Principal's Message

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these day-long events, students will rotate through numerous stations to gain information about life during these times, artillery, medical care, infantry, generals, civilians and/or cavalry.

The Holmes Physical Education Department is sponsoring their second annual "Take a Hike" field trip for 9<sup>th</sup> graders. This all-day field trip will take our students to the National Recreation Area of Marin County. The 3.1 mile loop is rated "easy".

## PARENT CONNECT

Parent Connection is a web-based application that allows parents to access information about their child. PIN and passwords will be available at Holmes Junior High for all parents/ guardians of Holmes Students.

Viewing assignments in Parent Connection is intended to serve as a support for parents to receive information about their child's academic history. It is not intended to replace parent communication with their child.

### Parents using Parent Connection

- ♦ Students are responsible to manage and submit completed classroom assignments. When having concerns or questions regarding your child's grades, please first discuss the matter with your child. Junior high is a time when it is important that we put expectations on our students to develop the ability to communicate and advocate for themselves. The purpose of the Parent Connection system is to support your child(ren) in their efforts.
- ♦ After discussing the matter with your child, if you and your child are confused about a current assignment or assignment grade, please refer to your child's planner, returned assignment, or have your child talk to his/her "study buddy".
- ♦ After reviewing the child's planner, if you and your child are still unclear as to how a progress or final grade was determined or where an assignment grade came from, please have your child speak with his/her teacher directly.

## FAMILY LIFE – UPDATES:

California Education Code requires that parents be notified of any course in which family life and sex education will be discussed. Holmes Junior High School will be offering a two-week course to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as part of their regular science curriculum. Topics to be covered include anatomy, physiology, birth control, sexually-transmitted

diseases, HIV/AIDS, sexual assault, decision-making and postponing sexual involvement. This class will be taught by 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers. The instruction will begin at the end of March and continue through May. Expect to see a permission slip come home about two weeks prior to the start of instruction.

Parents/guardians may preview the materials in the Holmes Library.

## TEXT MESSAGING CONCERNS

Our staff has noticed and become concerned that students are using their phone texting skills at school more often than in the past. I would like to remind parents of our policies concerning phone and electronic devices being used at school. Students must have their phones off and not visible during school hours, which are between 8:08 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. If students need to contact their parents, please remind them to go to the office and use the school phone. If you need to reach your child, please call the office to get a message to him or her.

We have had a few situations where the parent was calling the student, and the phone was not turned off, causing the student to lose their phone for the day because it rang during instruction. Our policy for any misuse of electronic devices, such as PDA's, cell phones, and/or calculators being used as game machines, is that the devices are confiscated and turned into the Vice Principal's office.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense:** Warning, student signs our policy statement and picks up item in the office after school.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense:** The student's parent needs to come to the office to pick up the item.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense:** The student and his/her parent must meet with an administrator for a conference and then the item is returned.
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense:** The student will not be allowed to have any electronic items here at school for the remainder of the school year.

Thank you for being such a positive and generous community of parents, staff and students.

-- Principal Derek Brothers

## Nightmare on Puberty Street

On February 4, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will experience the Kaiser Permanente Assembly called “**Nightmare on Puberty Street**”. This assembly is an age-appropriate, live theatrical performance about four young people on their journey through adolescence.

As the characters wrestle with the question “Am I normal?” they learn to cope with the changes affecting their bodies and minds. The frank and sometimes funny program shows students how to cope with many of the issues of puberty, including how to handle pressure to be sexually active, how to build self-esteem, how to avoid drugs and

alcohol, and where to find help if faced with feelings of depression or thoughts of suicide. By the end of the performance, students understand everyone goes through changes during puberty, and there are resources to help them adjust to those changes.

This performance was created in conjunction with physicians, teachers, licensed counselors, and parents. The performers/educators in the play receive extensive training from doctors and licensed counselors at the beginning of each year.

--Kerin Kelleher, Vice Principal

## Parent University

Davis Parent University

2010 Presents "Raising Healthy, Happy, Well-Balanced Children." Master of ceremonies is Channel 13 anchor woman Pallas Hupe.

Featured speakers are: Liz Applegate, Ph.D. of "Eat Smart, Play Hard"; Mitchel Adler, Psy.D. of "Parenting with Emotional Intelligence"; and Christine Carter, Ph.D., executive director of the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley and a sociologist who studies the childhood roots of happiness. Dr. Carter's new book, "Raising Happiness", comes out this month.

The event is Saturday, February 6 at the Brunelle Theater of the Davis High School. Registration is from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. The speakers present from: 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. This is a free event. The Avid Reader will be on hand to sell copies of "Raising Happiness" and will donate 10% of the total proceeds to the Davis Schools Foundation. For questions, email Jodi at [jlriederman@cs.com](mailto:jlriederman@cs.com) or Raychel at [raykub@gmail.com](mailto:raykub@gmail.com)

## Parent Education News

The Secondary Schools Parent Education Committee (a joint project of Da Vinci Charter Academy, Davis High, Emerson Junior High, Harper Junior High, and Holmes Junior High parent groups) has planned a full year of parent education nights. Some of the information has changed since our last announcement, so be sure to mark your calendars for:

• **Wed., February 10, 2010—Study Strategies for Teens**  
**Joaquin Galvan, UCD Study Skills Specialist, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Holmes Junior High School MPR, 1220 Drexel Boulevard, Davis**

Joaquin Galvan, the Retention Coordinator and a Study Skills Specialist at the UCD Learning Skills Center, presents an overview of needed study strategies for 7-12 graders. He will present material from a course he teaches to university students to inform and instruct parents of secondary students on how to help their children be successful students. This presentation is open to both parents and students. Contact Anne Finkelston, [afinkelston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:afinkelston@sbcglobal.net), with questions.

• **Wed., March 10, 2010—Making a Connection: Talking to Your Teen about Sex; Sue Simonson, Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Sexuality Educator, 6:45 p.m., Harper Junior High School MPR 4000 East Covell Boulevard, Davis**  
***This event is generously sponsored by Sutter West Medical Group***

This program includes teen and adult presenters. Parents hear from a teen as to the real sexual pressures teens face and how early that pressure begins. Parents learn assertiveness skills to teach their teens through a series of role-plays led by the teen presenters. The continued reality of STDs including AIDS and the risks of oral sex is presented to raise parents' awareness and knowledge. Parents are taught skills on how to keep the door of communication open in their home and help guide their teen toward healthy sexual decisions. Please contact Ann Moylan, [Moylan@csus.edu](mailto:Moylan@csus.edu), with questions.

## Counselors' Corner

# Now Is Time To Look Ahead To Next Year

It's hard to believe that the second semester has just begun and we are already planning for next school year. As you may know, the Davis Joint Unified School District has been using a new student information system, Zangle, since last summer. Zangle has many time-saving features which we are very excited about. You will see a few changes from previous years in the planning process and timeline.

During the month of March, Holmes counselors will be visiting 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English classes to distribute planning materials

and to present information about the 2010-2011 school year. Ninth graders will attend presentations at Holmes by representatives from Davis Senior High School and DaVinci High School, and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will attend a presentation by DaVinci Junior High School.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the evening informational meetings held for their child's grade level at Holmes, Davis Senior High, and DaVinci Junior and Senior Highs.

Postcards with details about presentations will be mailed home in mid-February.

### **Academic Talent Search Testing**

In summer 2010, Sacramento State's Academic Talent Search (ATS) will offer 4<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to take accelerated classes in a collegiate environment. The ATS qualifying exam will be given for students in grades 6-9 at Holmes on Tuesday, February 9, at 3:30 p.m., in room B-19. Sign-up forms, fee waiver forms (the fee is \$15), and additional information are available in the counseling office and at <http://edweb.csus.edu/Projects/ats>

-- Ashley Nelson, Counselor

## PE Springs Forward

We experienced a successful Fall semester that included 9th graders learning weight-training, golf, and gymnastics; 8th graders learning various team sports; and 7th graders learning medieval games to extend their social studies learning. Now the Holmes PE program springs forward into new activities

Highlights include racquet sports, like tennis, badminton, pickle ball, and speedminton; our track unit that precedes our most popular team sport (which is track); and our year-end Patriot Games unit.

We are not through with the cold weather of winter, so make sure your student has warm clothes to wear because many of our spring units are outdoors. We have new sweatpants and hooded sweatshirts for sale in all sizes for \$15 each, or students can wear sweats from home, but they must be blue, black, or gray.

Girls PE is still requesting donations of gently used socks. The PE department is in search of a tug-o-war rope. Any donations can be made in the main office. Be sure to label them for PE. Thanks.

Please plan to attend Open House on Thursday, February 25 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The PE department will have displays in the gym that include videos of your student dancing, dance demonstrations, and racquet sports demonstrations. We look forward to seeing you. Thank you for all of your support.

--Paul Rooney, PE

## Library News

We are looking forward to our book fair the last week of February. Please stop by on Open House night, Thursday, February 25 to check it out!

### **Book and Magazine Swap**

For "Read Across America" week, the library is sponsoring its second used "Book Swap" for staff and students on Wednesday, March 3. Staff will swap in the morning before school and students, at lunch. Start saving your books and magazines.

### **Overdue Library Books**

Please check with your student to see if he/she has overdue library books. We are approaching the end of the semester and report cards can be held. Thank you.

-- Amy Labson, Librarian

## "Growing" Concerns

Those giant sitting rocks near the gym arrived on New Year's Eve 2009, thanks to the efforts of Steve Stein and the Blue Max Kart Club! These Greenstone boulders come from a quarry in Lone but look natural enough under the pines to want to pitch a tent! Not only does this addition make the area more aesthetically pleasing, but it provides additional seating for students as well.

-- Debra Ariola, School Garden Coordinator

## PTA UPDATES

### Thank You to These Families

The following is an updated list of generous donors to the Un-Fundraiser:

Alcalay	Goodman-Shaver	Quinn
Aldredge	Gorges	Raven
Amesbury	Gregg	Renaud
Aptekar-Cassels	Greve	Richey
Archer	Grim	Riggle
Armstrong	Hansen	Rizzo
Ashdown	Harjes	Roberts
Auman	Hart	Rose
Babich	Henderson	Roy
Beck	Holmes	Rutazihana
Beck	Hull	Safford
Bellamy	Isakari	Schlosser
Bellin	Jenkins-Gaytan	Serdahl
Benner	Jeremic	Sheeran
Birt	Joerger	Shippen
Bolle	Johnston	Siegel
Boo	Kelly	Silver
Borowsky	Khan	Simon
Brewer	Kim	Simpson
Bronzan	Kim	Smith
Busch	Krashansky	Smith
Cansler	Labbe-Renault	Son
Carriere	Leal	Stabenfeldt
Carter	Lewis	Stombler
Chang	Li	Straw
Chen	Lim	Sumner
Chinn	Lim	Thompson
Chuck	Long	Tibor
Conant	Ma	Tutt
Conroy	Maguire	Vaewson
Croft	Malone	Vidya-Ashwin
D'Angelo	Martinez	Waters
DeMarco	Mayr	Willefert
Devarenes	McHale	Williams
Dicker	McTygue	Williamson
Dodge	Meadows-Smith	Wilson
Driscoll	Melendres	Wolf
Dufresne	Meyer	Woodard
Evans	Molinski	Wright
Fader	Molinski	Yee
Farman	Neustadt	Yi
Foley	Newton	Yoo
Forkin	Paul	Young
Fosberg	Perez	Yu
Fung	Petersen	Zherg
Glazer	Plude	Zhu
Goldstein	Poudyal	Zufelt

### Holmes Un-Fundraiser Ensures Student Outings

Holmes families are truly a remarkable and generous group! Thank you to the 141 Holmes families and teachers for donating to our eighth annual Un-Fundraiser. We raised just over \$10,000, with additional donations continuing to arrive. Donations are still accepted; contact Carolee at [clbgregg@aol.com](mailto:clbgregg@aol.com) for information.

All proceeds from this fundraiser provide funding so that every HJH student will experience an outing this spring designed to augment their classroom learning, and help to broaden and enrich their education.

Specifically, the money raised this year will be used for:

- A class-wide 7<sup>th</sup> grade Renaissance Day
- A class-wide 8<sup>th</sup> grade Civil War Reenactment Day
- The annual 9<sup>th</sup> grade all-day hike at Mt. Tamalpais
- An assembly for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, with speaker

Matthew Boger from the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, who brings a personal and powerful message of tolerance

Thanks again to all of you who have helped make these events available to our children – your generosity is one of the many things that helps make Holmes such a wonderful place of learning for our children.

**-- Carolee Gregg, Un-Fundraiser Chair**

### Hospitality Thanks

Thank you so much to parents/guardians for your many contributions that made the Holmes staff appreciation lunch a super success. The luncheon was held on Monday, January 25, offering our teachers and staff a change of pace.

A special thank you goes to Kristi Gladding who helped organize this lunch. Because HJH has such fabulous parents/guardians, we received a plethora of donations and were able to provide an amazingly abundant “potato bar” with a bounty of tasty toppings, a selection of salads and a variety of delicious desserts.

We all know that each staff member works very hard towards the success of our students, and it was an honor to treat them at this luncheon. Thank you again for your support and generosity.

**-- Sally Albertson and Alden Le Verrier, Hospitality**

## Come To Jazz Choir Cabaret

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Davis High School Jazz Choir Cabaret will be held Saturday, February 13, and Sunday, February 14, at Emerson Junior High School. The event will feature musical numbers by the Jazz Choir, Jazz Combo and DHS Jazz Band. There will also be a silent auction and raffle.

Tickets for Cabaret include a delicious dinner catered by Cracchiolo's.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$20 for students. Can't make it to Cabaret? Enjoy the music of Cabaret at a special concert Thursday, February 18, at the DHS Brunelle Theatre at 7:00 p.m. Ticket information for all performances is available at [www.dhsjazzchoir.org](http://www.dhsjazzchoir.org).

## Math Tournament

The Davis Mu Alpha Theta Chapter is presenting an exciting opportunity for young students interested in math. The Davis All-City Math Tournament is for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders of all abilities. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 20, to be held at the Davis High School. Register at <http://sites.google.com/site/davismathtournament>. We encourage all curious math students to attend. Awards will be given to the top-scoring individuals from each grade level. The top elementary and junior high school will win the tournament title.

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