

HOLMES Highlights

A NEWSLETTER
OF THE HOLMES
JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL PTA

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

November 2010 ♦ Issue 3

Upcoming Events

- 11/8 Site Council Meeting
(4-6pm Holmes library)
- 11/11 **NO SCHOOL** - Holiday
Veteran's Day
- 11/12 **NO SCHOOL** – DJUSD
Workday Reduction
- 11/15 Positive School Climate
Meeting (3:45pm Large
Conference Room)
- 11/18 Holmes Band & Choir
Concert (7pm Davis
High School-Performing
Arts Building)
- 11/19 Mix-it-up Day-lunch for
all grades 11:50-12:35pm
- 11/22-26 **NO SCHOOL** - Holiday
Thanksgiving Break
- 12/2 PTA Meeting
(7-9pm Holmes library)
- 12/3 Mid-Quarter Progress
Report Quarter 2
- 12/6 "Secrets" (9th grade)
- 12/8 Holmes Toy Shop
(6-8pm Room G-45)
- 12/10 Leadership/School Dance
#2 (7:30-10pm MPR)
- 12/13 Site Council Meeting
(4-6pm Holmes library)
- 12/14 Formal Jazz Band &
Choir Concert
(7pm-Holmes MPR)
- 12/15 Holmes Orchestra Winter
Concert (7pm Davis High
School-Performing Arts
Building)
- 12/20-31 **NO SCHOOL** - Holiday
Winter Break
- 1/3 School Resumes from
Winter Break
- 1/10 Site Council Meeting
(4-6pm Holmes library)

A Message from the Principal, Derek Brothers

Giving Thanks

November is the time of year we give thanks. The Thanksgiving Holiday allows us to think about and appreciate our many privileges and gifts. As principal, I would like to reflect on the things at school for which I am thankful:

- The first quarter has ended, and things are going well.
- Our students are wonderful and energetic.
- Our staff is exceptional because each member works together to provide a strong educational program for our students and they support each other.
- I am very proud to be a part of a warm, caring, and giving school community.

Late Start Wednesdays

On Wednesday mornings Holmes, Harper and Emerson Junior Highs have a late start. Period 1 starts at 9:28 a.m. in order for staff to meet and collaborate. We have had 4 late start mornings since school began this year. The staff at Holmes has growing concerns about the great number of students that gather early in the morning at the Nugget Market Shopping Center on Covell Blvd. on these Wednesday mornings. The staff at Nugget and the other

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A Message from Your PTA President, Christina Dicker

PTA Helps Parents Stay Informed

One important purpose of the PTA is to keep parents informed. Involved parents can better understand the challenges schools and students face every day and become part of the solution. One great way to stay informed is to attend a PTA meeting.

Principal Derek Brothers, counselor Joanna Littell and teacher Heather Wade give monthly reports on what's going on at Holmes. Each month, a different teaching department (PE, Social Studies, English, Math, etc.) gives a presentation so you can learn what your child is doing in the classroom.

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Principal's Message

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businesses have been extremely helpful and welcoming to our students, but also share in our concern for student safety on these mornings. While most students are behaving very well, there have been a few students involved in risky behaviors. Some have earned community and school consequences for these behaviors since this school year started. Some students are arriving as early as 7:00 a.m. and staying for up to 2 hours at this location before their school day begins. Many are buying energy drinks and large amounts of candy. We would like to ask you to reconsider sending your child out to socialize with friends at the Nugget Market on these Wednesday mornings.

School Plan for Student Achievement

The Holmes staff and Site Council are updating the School Plan that follows state guidelines and focuses on increasing success for under-achieving students. The plan must be submitted to the district office in early January for Board of Education approval in late January. The process involves looking at a wide range of information including how our students are progressing, STAR Tests, grades, attendance, student survey responses, discipline records, etc. From this information, goals for student performance are written, and programs to support the goals are continued, modified, or implemented. Later, the effectiveness of these programs is evaluated and the plan will be revised for the following year. In addition, separate academic departments are writing goals about student performance. During collaboration mornings, the staff will be evaluating ways our school addresses these goals and will consider modifications and/or new programs.

Effective Communication: Email Guidelines

As a district, we are committed to communication between home and school that is essential to student success. Because of the ease and efficiency of email, we find that we are all managing an increasing number of messages every day. In the case of teachers, the time spent in responding to this email load can impact the teachers' ability to plan effective instruction and give prompt feedback to students about their work. A similar impact is felt throughout the community. To assist in the effective use of email, we offer these guidelines to staff, parents, and students:

- Try to send the first email about an issue only to those directly involved rather than copying it to many others, a practice that increases everyone's message load.

- Shorter is better. You will receive the best and most focused answer when the message is as succinct as possible.
- Because of the speed of email, we all begin to expect equally speedy responses. Please allow up to two (2) working days for a response.
- Email messages can sometimes be misinterpreted. The phone or a conference is best when an issue may cause concern or prompt an emotional response.
- It is not always possible for teachers who are dealing with as many as 160 students per day to respond immediately, or to give daily reports about student behavior and progress. Before contacting a teacher for information that the student should have, please encourage your child to find the answers to questions by checking other school sources such as fellow students, bulletins, or teachers' websites.

New Student Information System (SIS)

As you all know, it is the long standing practice of the DJUSD to inform parents of student attendance in a predictable and detailed way on a daily basis. This has not been possible since the beginning of school due to the installation of a new student information system and new automated calling systems. Both implementation teams expected this to be a routine task but have encountered significant difficulties. Here are some things you can do to help:

- If you have been absent, you must hand in a note to the attendance office (the very next day you return to school) that has been signed by your parent/guardian indicating your name, date of absence, and reason for the absence OR have your parent/guardian call the attendance office with your name, date of absence, and reason for the absence. The attendance office telephone number is 757-5453 ext. 201.
- The PTA listserv regularly informs parents and guardians of events and issues at school by email. The daily bulletin is also available through listserv. The Holmes website (www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/Holmes) posts the handbook and other important information about Holmes Junior High.

Parent Connect

Holmes Junior High Staff supports the DJUSD in their goal to provide secured online information access to parents. The Zangle System is a new tool for our district. Parent Connection is a web-based application that allows parents to access information about their child. 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.

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Principal's Message

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Student Connect

The Zangle System has a new tool for our students to use, called Student Connect. Student Connection is a web-based application like the Parent Connect that allows students to access information about themselves. Viewing assignments in Student Connection is intended to help support for students to receive information about their academic history. It is not intended to replace any other communication about your child.

Pin and passwords are needed to have access to both Parent Connect and Student Connect. These will be available at Holmes Junior High for all parents/guardians of Holmes Students; students must have a photo ID to receive their pin/passwords. We will be sending pins/passwords with the first quarter grades in the mail for all 7th graders and new students to Holmes Junior High. All returning 8th and 9th graders can use their code from last year. If you have forgotten your code, you may drop by the counseling office during lunch, before or after school to receive your pin/password.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving Break!

~ **Derek Brothers**

FROM YOUR PTA PRESIDENT

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PTA Committee Chairs report on various PTA-sponsored activities and programs currently going on at school. There are 6 meetings left this year, all at 7:00 p.m. in the Holmes library (12/2, 1/27, 2/17, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26). I hope you can attend at least one and learn about all the great things happening at Holmes Jr High.

Another way to stay informed is to join the Holmes PTA listserv. You will receive up-to-date information from the PTA and the school. If you are not receiving the listserv announcements and would like to, please go to the Holmes PTA website at <http://dcn.davis.ca.us/~hjh/index.htm>, click on the listservs button on the left side and follow the instructions for subscribing.

I have many volunteers to thank for PTA activities during the months of July-October. Katja Greve, Christina Young and Nancy Bodily did a great job creating the informative July newsletter postcard. PTA is lucky to have Carrie Matthews-Kelly join the team and help produce the monthly newsletter. Shelley Bronzan and Jan Blumenfeld, along with the

Parent and Student Connect Follow-Up Tip

Please remember when checking student scores on "Assignments" in Parent and Student Connect to choose "Show All Assignments" from the upper left hand corner of the screen. The default setting in Zangle is to "Show Assignments for Last/Next Week". This does not include all of the information from the quarter. Quarter 1 ends October 29. Students should be contacting their teachers to ask if and how they can turn in missing assignments.

~ **Leeana Neely**
Spanish Teacher

entire Holmes staff, did a wonderful job of making registration go smoothly. Hospitality's Kristy Gladding and Sally Albertson organized an awesome back-to-school pizza lunch for the staff, thanks to the yummy donations from Holmes families. Lisa Best, the volunteer coordinator, has worked hard to create volunteer lists for the various activities. PTA Membership is in good hands with Jennifer Thompson in charge. She's been busy tallying member numbers and donations, which is no small task considering the great parent support at Holmes. Joe Brewer has been working hard with the 8th grade A-Team to make Red Ribbon Week a great success.

These individuals, together with all the fabulous hardworking PTA volunteers and school staff, have made these first few months very successful. **THANK YOU!** Happy Thanksgiving and see you on December 2nd, at the PTA meeting!

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

RIDE A BIKE - WIN A PRIZE! 2010 Save-a-Gallon Contest

Win prizes all school year for biking, walking, skateboarding, taking the bus, or carpooling to school!

Prizes: Random drawings for participants and monthly district-wide prizes. The end-of-year grand prize is an I-POD Touch for the most days logged, and \$200 cash for the most miles logged. New this year are prizes for teacher teams: Ms. Sommer, Mr. Williams, or Ms. Quenon, or start another one!

Sign up online:

www.saveagallon.org. Use your first name & last initial, and choose Holmes and a teacher team. The contest has been underway since early October, but it's not too late to sign up and log in your miles. For more information: Contact **Ms. Sommer** in room E-34, or email jesommer@djud.net.

Rules:

1. Students only. No parents, teachers or other adults.
2. You can count carpooling miles ONLY if you are riding in a non-related student's car. Driving with just family members doesn't count.
3. You must join one of the Davis school teams on the saveagallon.org website.
4. All trips using alternative transportation miles count (walking, bicycling, skateboarding, public transit, carpools as above), as long as otherwise the trip would have been made in a car. Save gallons of fuel and win prizes!

This activity is sponsored by Davis Bicycles!, a local, non-profit organization.

Supporting Holmes is Easy with PTA's Un-Fundraiser

Holmes PTA's annual fundraiser, *The Un-Fundraiser*, is ready to kick off! Look for a letter which will be mailed to each family asking for a direct donation to go toward several very popular spring activities for each of the 3 grade levels. Again this year your generous Un-Fundraiser donations will be used to fund the 7th grade Renaissance Day, the 8th grade Civil War Day, and to pay for buses for the 9th grade hike field trip. Also, this year the Un-Fundraiser donations will be used to fund two motivational speaker assemblies.

The goal of the Un-Fundraiser has always been to provide an easy way for parents to help make a noticeable difference in a course or department that benefits all of the students at Holmes. Please help by participating and by mailing back your RSVP card. Contact **Shelley Bronzan**, Un-Fundraiser Chair, at shelleybronzan@comcast.net or 753-0811 if you have any questions or wish to volunteer to help with this fundraiser.

Thank you very much!

Attention Safeway Shoppers

Every year, Safeway asks Club Card shoppers to renew their commitment to Holmes Junior High PTA (and other designated beneficiaries) at eScrip.com. The deadline for renewing your card is November 1, 2010.

- If you've checked this "to do" off your list, THANK YOU! Those grocery receipts add up and really make a difference.
- If you haven't yet renewed your Club Card, please accept this friendly reminder to log on to www.escrip.com.
- If you see a "Yes! Renew" check box on your screen, then you haven't renewed this year.

Your renewal takes effect as soon as you click the box - it's that easy! Alternately, you may contact HJHPTA scrip coordinator Julia Grim at glen_julia_julian@sbcglobal.net and she would be happy to do it for you. She will need your club card number.

Renewing by November 1st ensures uninterrupted contributions to Holmes PTA, of up to 3% of your Club Card purchases. **Scrip represents roughly 40% of Holmes PTA's budget**, which is used to support many of the great opportunities that Holmes provides our students.

Remember to use your Nugget, SaveMart, and Safeway scrip cards every time you shop - it's a way to support our students at no cost to you!

PTA THANKS FAMILIES

The Holmes PTA would like to thank all of the families who joined and/or gave direct donations to the PTA this year. We received donations from \$2 to \$234. We appreciate the support of our great Holmes families, teachers, and staff! If you do not see your name on the list below and would like to join, download a form from our website www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~huh/ and drop it and your cash or check in the office PTA box or mail it to Holmes Junior High, 120 Drexel Dr. We are still happy to receive your applications. If we missed your name, please let us know and we'll include it in the next newsletter. **Thank you** to the families of the following students for joining and/or donating to the PTA:

Abbuthalha, A., Abdul Sattar, G., Adams, C., Ahn H., Alali M., Albertson, E., Alcalay, D., Allen-Sutter S., Almeida, J., Amato M., Amesbury C&R., Anderson D., Anderson E., Anderson K., Aptekar-Cassels D&L., Archer C., Asera A., Ashdown A&D., Athens T., Ault, S., Babich G., Bachand N., Baek A., Bair, D., Bajracharya, P., Bakhshi, S., Barr, D., Beck M., Bellamy J., Benner M., Benner, T., Bertain, D., Best K&M., Biers-Ariel, S., Birt B., Blackwell H., Blanc J., Blumenfeld L., Bolich A., Bolle W., Borowsky A&N., Brewer A., Brewer B., Broaddus J., Bronzan P., Brown S., Brown Z., Browne J., Browning K., Bryant, A., Buchanan E., Buderia A., Burns S., Butler W., Calhoun D., Campbel E., Carrera S., Carter C., Carter S., Castillo, B., Cenzer J., Chandler N., Chang L., Chen M., Chern I., Choe J., Chu E., Chu T., Clerfond J., Cole J., Collier H., Comingore J., Conant J., Concha J., Croft B., Cuetara J., Culberson B., Curlis P., D'Angelo B., Darrah R., Daes B., Delplanque A., Devanbu F., BeVarenes J., Dhesi K., Dicker C&E., Dimond K., Dockter R., Donald I., Driscoll Z., Dufrense A., Estrada S., Eweis-LaBolle D., Ewens M., Fadel E., Fieni G., Filmer E., Fineberg A., Flemming A., Foley R., Folks Q., Foster A., Frame P., Fujino E., Fyhrie M., Gadam J., Gardner-Garcia J., Garrett S., Gayton-Jenkins D., Gegan L., Geist J., Ghiglieri L., Gifford A., Gladding J., Gloudeman R., Godfry L., Goldstein B., Goldstein L., Goodman-Shaver D&L., Goulart J., Grabert M., Graves A., Greve G., Greenfield J., Grim J., Guerzon E., Haass Ol., Haile Y., Hall W., Halpin R., Hampton E., Hansen R., Harjes C., Haro G., Harrison M., Hart C., Harwood S., Hayakawa D., Heeren B.,

Henrickson D., Hernes A., Hill S., Hirst A., Hirzy K., Holder K., HHoshovsky R., Houck R., Hsu G., Hubbard B., Hubbard J., Hunt-Murray Z., Huston H., Hwang R., Inkelas E., James L., Jenks A., Jensen B., Jeremic P., Jiang A., Johnson D., Jones A., Juanitas Z., Kaplan G., Kashani S., KeenR., Khan M., Kim G., Kim I., Kinder B., Kirsch G., Knox E., Koo M., Krovetz A., Labbe-Renault R., LaFreniere A., Lagattuta K., Landherr H., Lascherposner A., Lau K., Layman C., Leal G., Layva N., Li S., Lim J., Lin L., Lindeman M., Lipson S., Long P., Looney H., Loy E., Maguire S., Malone D., Manandhar P., Marie S., Marigo B., Martin F., Martinez A., Matthews I., Mayr L., McCarty C., McFarland B., McIntyre A., McTygue T., McYates K., Melendres G., Memon N., Merges J., Meyers M., Miller A., Miller J., Mills L., Millstone W., Mitchel H., Moffatt Z., Molinski J., Monheit C., Moreno D., Morse C., Mowry A., Neel A., Neithercutt W., Nelson H., Newton M., Nickell E., Nijjar U., Nishikawa R., Nunes N., O'Guinn J., Olwert M., Paciulla E., Papagni N., Paw U, C., Peifer S., Perez D., Peterson K., Pickney D., Pion J., Plude M., Powell T., Price M., Prieditis K., Prince K., Puente C., Quinn A., Ramer-Denisoff G., Ratnasiri B., Raven B., Ray G., Raychaudhuri A., Renaud A., Resendez S., Reynolds G., Richey G., Riggle C., Riley K., Rizzo A., Roberson J&W., Roberts S., Rosenblum B., Roy M., Ruan C., Rubin J., Rutherford E., Saechow M., Salcedo B., Sanders I., Schladow G., Schwab L., Sedillo R., Shelledy G., Sherwin S., Shields N., Shin Y., Siegel A., Silver N., Simons N., Simpson C&M., Siu K., Slabaugh C.,

Smallwood N., Smith L., Sonstein E., Soto K., Stahl B., Stapleton C., Steele D., Stein W., Stewart B., Stombier-Levine M., Strachan-Payne Z., Stroeve J., Sundaresan J., Sutton R., Taylor D., Thompson C&G., Thompson K., Thoreson S., Todd R., Torres A., Townsley S., Trask M., Traxler B., Tripathi M&P., Tsang D., Tull B., Unger C., Ushakova A., Van Schoor T., VanVorhis E., Waggoner K., Walche G., Walker W., Wang J., Waters K., Webster C., Weismann B&W., White M., Wiebe C., Willefert K., Williams M., Williams Q., Williamson M., Wilson A., Woodland O., Yamoah M., Yang E., Yi C., Yoo S., You P., Young J., Young P., Zabala J., Zarate-Sanchez E., Zehnder J., Zezulak K., Zhang H., Zheng S., Zhou J.

A thank you also goes out to the following teachers and staff for joining the PTA and/or making donations to the PTA:

Derek Brothers, Mike Dufresne, Mindy Dufresne, Scott Grensted, Kris Harvey, Dianna Henrickson, Kerin Kelleher, Jean Kennedy, Kris King, Pat King, Amy Labson, Joanna Littell, Karen Moore, Lisa Mowry, Ashley Nelson, Martha Quenon, Clyde Quick, Paul Rooney, Heather Wade and Bill Williams.

~ **Jennifer Thompson**
Membership Chair

Climate Change Assembly: What's Your DOT?

All students in all grades were treated to an assembly on climate change presented by the Alliance for Climate Education (ACE). You can see the trailer for this assembly at <http://www.acespace.org>. Select "Education" from the menu, then "The ACE Assembly", then "Watch Trailer."

As a follow-up to the assembly, students were encouraged to "Do One Thing" (DOT) for the environment, every day. One of the DOTs which was promoted by the presenter was to join the Holmes Green Team. The turnout for Green Team meetings has been fabulous during the past few weeks; 30-50 kids have attended the Green Team meetings in Ms. Quenon's room (C-25) at lunch. Students have formed 6-8 Action Teams comprised of 5-10 students to work on specific projects.

Teams are: promoting recycling by offering a "Go to the Head of the Lunch Line" ticket and getting more students to recycle, writing bulletin announcements, initiating food waste composting, creating presentations on recycling to be given to 7th and 8th grade classes, and having an art contest using recycled materials. Students are being encouraged to plan and complete all components of the action project themselves, but adults can be employed to help with some of the details. Contact Ms. Quenon if you're interested in helping with any of these projects or being a liaison between Green Team and Holmes' PTA.

Did you DOT for planet Earth today? Did your child? Ask him/her, "What's your DOT?"

Davis Art Center Holiday Sale 2010

Mark your calendars now for the Davis Art Center's 20th annual Holiday Sale to be held over three days: Friday, December 3, from noon to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, December 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This holiday tradition features over 70 artisans' booths, a wall of art silent auction, pottery-painting studio, and hands-on arts and crafts for all ages. The Café will feature homemade soups, salads, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, cookies, and beverages. Bring your younger siblings for entry into "The Children's Secret Store" (no one over 12 allowed in the Secret Store, including parents), where they will receive assistance with their holiday shopping and gift-wrapping.

Proceeds benefit programs and classes at the Davis Art Center. Admission is free. Call the Davis Art Center at 756-4100 for more information, or to volunteer in the Children's Secret Store!

DavisPARENTSDO

Where will your kids be on upcoming furlough days and holidays?

With the addition of five extra days during the school year when DJUSD students will not be in class, parents who work away from home may be challenged to find something constructive for their kids to do, or to provide them with the supervision teens need.

Even Davis teens get into trouble without supervision, although many parents have no idea of the extent that kids are using alcohol and pot in particular when adults aren't around. You may think your child wouldn't use, but do you know what they really do when you aren't around on these days off?

There are several resources in Davis for students during times school is not in session. Some of these are listed below. In addition to having your teen participate in a structured alternative to staying alone unsupervised, you can do the following to minimize the risk of substance use when you are not around. Each idea requires the involvement of an adult in coming up with constructive alternatives to hanging out and possibly using.

Form an informal parent cooperative to share being at home during furlough days: Have parents take turns taking days off to host teen friends at one house during an early release, furlough day, or the Thanksgiving holidays.

Have your child enroll in doing volunteer work for the day(s) off: Examples include tutoring younger kids, food bank, working at the SPCA, migrant center, or the senior center. This contributes positively to kids' self esteem, helps the community, and develops competencies that are a deterrent to substance use.

Enroll your child in a structured activity:

There aren't enough of these options but there are a few things in Davis that might work for your family, including City of Davis Teen Center programs at Harper and Holmes during late start and articulation days, or the UC Davis Craft Studio.

If your child already has too many activities and more structure is not an option when you are absent:

- Make a plan together for how your child will spend the time off;
- Leave your child with very clear expectations, such as not allowing other kids in the home when adults are not present;
- Know where s/he will spend his time;
- Get to know other parents and what they will allow if your child spends time with theirs.

Discussion Topic With Your Teen: Ask your teen what other kids do on these days off, and how s/he feels about their choices. Does s/he feel pressure to do the same things? Does s/he feel s/he is missing out or falling behind the social scene by not participating? Ask your teen if s/he needs any help from you in handling the situation.

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

HOLMES CALENDARS:

A Few Left ... Going Fast!

School wall calendars with beautiful color student artwork are available. Choose from two themes, "nature" or "famous landmarks". School holidays and furloughs are printed on each month, from July 2010 to December 2011 calendars. All this for just \$15!

To order, please contact **Ms. Sommer** at jesommer@djud.net.

YEARBOOK REMINDER

Yearbooks are now \$38 dollars through December 3rd. You can pick up an order form in the office or you can now purchase your book online at www.jostensyearbooks.com and look for OW Holmes JH School. Both debit or credit cards can be used to purchase online.

~ **Deanna Leveque**

Art Dept. Coordinator, Yearbook Advisor

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