



drumbeats

A Publication of the West High School PTSA

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Torrance Council of PTAs
Thirty-Third District PTA
California State PTA



PTSA President: Janet Tajii
Principal: Ben Egan
Editor: Emi Morimoto

President's Message

As the year comes to a close I wish to thank all the parents and students who are members of the West High PTSA for their support of our efforts to accomplish the PTA mission 'to improve the education, health and welfare of all children and youth.' I am pleased with what the West High PTSA has been able to accomplish this year. In addition to providing programs such as Parent Education Night, the Drumbeats newsletter, the Reflections Program, and Warrior Welcome lunch, we also provided funding for Naviance, scholarships, testing refreshments, staff appreciation, emergency supplies, and the College Fair.

"This year we have donated over \$18,000...Thank you to everyone who supported our membership campaign and fundraisers!"

This year we have donated over \$18,000 to improve technology for classrooms, fund an educational assembly, purchase 12 benches for the students around campus, help fund the purchase of a new security cart, and provide Library Database access for all students. Thank you to everyone who supported our membership campaign and fundraisers!

Additional thanks to:

The PTSA Board and Principal Ben Egan for their continued passion and commitment to serve and support the students at West High.

The fantastic West High staff whose invaluable assistance have made it possible for the PTSA to accomplish its goals.

The parent volunteers who continuously help with a variety of PTSA and school activities and events such as

the snack bar, text book processing and distribution, newsletter prep, registration assistance, vision and hearing testing, providing baked goods, staff appreciation, College Fair, and senior activities.

It has been an honor to serve as your PTSA President for the past two years, and I am thrilled to be handing the job over

to Michelle VanLerberghe, who brings a wealth of experience and a passion for the PTSA and education in Torrance. I am confident that you will be supportive of Michelle and the 2012-13 PTSA in our endeavors to continue to make West High the best!

Janet Tajii
PTSA President



"Hitch your wagon to a star."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."

Albert Einstein

Principal's Message – Celebrating Our Year



"Many of our school programs as well as many of our dedicated staff have received awards or recognitions for their extraordinary contributions to education."



Our outstanding school programs and dedicated staff continue to bring praise and recognition to our school. This has been another year of exceptional achievements. Many of our school programs as well as many of our dedicated staff have received awards or recognitions for their extraordinary contributions to education. It is always with great pride that I share with others the outstanding programs we have here at West High, but we are most proud of the wonderful students and their impressive accomplishments and excellent behavior. Our visitors often share with us how impressed they are with our students' behavior and attitude, the warm, supportive learning environment, and the students' joy for learning that is so obviously prevalent throughout the classrooms. WHS is a very special school where many wonderful people come together to share their love for students and their commitment for their future.

The spring semester has been filled with many great performances and events. In particular, West High School hosted a spectacular musical production of *"Little Shop of Horrors."* In addition, the Advanced Fashion Show, the Spring Dance Concert, the WHS Talent Show, the West Area Choral and Instrumental Music performances, and Academic Decathlon County Championship all served to highlight an eventful time of year.

A Special Thank You to the following members of our school community:

Our outstanding PTSA. The PTSA Board consists of hardworking, positive, supportive and extremely capable members who always give so willingly of their time, talents and energy whenever and wherever they are needed. Whether it's getting school started, organizing our snack bar, recognizing our teachers, or organizing grad night, our PTSA is always there to help. Parents have been so supportive of our fundraising efforts and all contributions have been greatly appreciated.

Janet Tajii, our PTSA President. Her dedication and caring for the children at West is a model for others. Her hard work and willingness to take on any task and get it done are signs of her effective leadership. We all appreciate the hundreds of volunteer hours she and other PTSA members contribute to this school each year.

Our wonderful, supportive parents. We appreciate your unfailing support for our school and involvement in your children's education. Parents who care and who are actively involved in the school do make a significant difference in the success of their children in school. In addition, your generosity in a year of fiscal troubles was greatly appreciated.

American Honda, especially Stephan Morikawa and Kacey Takashima. Our business partner has been involved in many aspects of the school this year and will continue to be part of our school for years to come. They have contributed to our programs and success this year. We have a growing partnership that others envy and we are proud of the work we do together.

Staples Office Supply in Torrance. For four years now, we've enjoyed the support of Staples by partnering together to collect our copy paper for the upcoming school year. Their generosity has already saved us thousands of dollars that will be used for important school supplies.

Our highly qualified teaching staff who have provided a productive and positive learning climate for students. They are among the best teachers the profession has to offer and we are fortunate to have their services here at West.

Our classified staff, counselors and administrators who consistently demonstrate the highest degree of dedication and professional performance. We are indeed fortunate to have so many wonderful, warm and caring people to work with our children.

(continued on page 3)

Counselor's Corner

NAVIANCE

It is important for all students to have their username and password and to check their inbox regularly. Make sure your student enters their e-mail address along with a parent e-mail address in their Naviance profile. Counselors use Naviance as a way of communicating with students and parents regarding events, deadlines, college visits and other important information and we would not want you to miss critical notices or requests for information.

SUMMER PROGRAMS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

There are many summer programs on college campuses all across the country. Summer programs are wonderful opportunities to explore an interest and/or earn college credits. To view summer opportunities logon to your Naviance account at <http://connection.naviance.com/westhigh> and click on "Enrichment Programs" under the "Colleges" tab or stop by the Counseling Office to review the informational posters.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Students who wish to attend summer school should register now. Summer school options include:

1. South Bay Enrichment Academy (SBEA) - Semester and/or year-long

courses will be offered at North and West High. For a listing of classes and more information, visit www.tefsbea.org.

2. Community College – Be advised that state budget cuts may have an impact on availability of courses.
3. Online Courses (Science and Fine Art courses **cannot** be taken online).
 - a. All online courses taken for advancement **MUST** be completed by **July 27, 2012**. If you provided your high school's name and/or ACT code upon registration (053521), a notice of course completion will be mailed to West High. It will arrive in the mail within two to three weeks after they receive your final exam.
 - b. Students seeking NCAA initial eligibility certification (college athletes) **cannot** enroll in BYU online courses.

VISITING COLLEGES

JUNIORS - Summer is an excellent time to visit college campuses. Many campuses offer organized Preview Days and/or tours for prospective students.

Registration Packets

Pick-up dates will be:

July 25, 26, 27 and August 1
8 – 10 a.m.
AND
1 – 3 p.m.



Early in July you will receive a bright yellow postcard with information about Registration Packet pick-up.

Be sure to save the postcard with the MAILING LABEL ATTACHED.

If you misplace the postcard,
two current proofs of residence
must be provided (electric, gas, water or cable bills).

Electronic printouts or copies of bills ARE NOW accepted.

If you, or your student, are not able to come on the above dates, you may send the postcard with anyone else to pick up the packet.

Packets will not be mailed home.

Principal's Message

(continued from page 2)

Our students, who have worked hard and demonstrated fine progress in all academic and extracurricular areas. They continue to amaze us with their skills, creativity and performance. Students have willingly served their school and have demonstrated general kindness, respect and consideration for each other. The West High staff cherishes the privilege we have in being able to work with such wonderful students. They provide the joys and rewards that come from such an important responsibility as that of educating children.

FAREWELL TO A GREAT SENIOR CLASS

As the school year winds down, we look back and recognize the many accomplishments of our students. A large part of this success must be given to the graduating class of 2012. Throughout their time at West, they have provided leadership for the entire school and have set an example of excellence that will be the benchmark for many future graduates. The close bonds that they have formed at West High School will be long lasting and grow even more precious as time goes on. My wish for each of you is continued happiness and success as you begin the next exciting phase of your life. Remember always that we are very proud of you and you will always be "Warriors."

Ben Egan,
Principal

West High PTSA Membership



We had a total of 1566 members join.

We would like to thank everyone who joined West High PTSA this past school year. We had a total of 1566 members join.

Thank you again for your support of the West High PTSA! Our organization is successful because of its members.

Jill Baker (310) 600-9423

jillbaker@pobox.com

Barbi Voelzke (310) 486-2094

billvoelzke@aol.com

Torrance Council of PTAs Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Jenna Hoover and Candice Wu for being awarded the 2012 Torrance Council of PTAs Scholarship. Each one was awarded \$600 at Torrance Council's annual May Brunch on May 23.

Every year Torrance Council of PTAs awards two scholarships to each of the four high schools. These Graduating High School Senior Scholarships are awarded to seniors who demonstrate high achievements for their volunteer service to the school and community, as well as for their leadership experience and academic achievement.

We are proud of our WHS recipients and wish them continued success!

2012 West High PTSA Scholarship Award Recipients

On May 9, 2012, a PTSA board reception was held to honor four West High students who were selected as this year's PTSA scholarship recipients. Seniors Patcharaporn Chainwatana, Jenna Hoover, Katelyn Horton, and Thomas Lee each received a \$500 scholarship for use in their university studies next year. We hope that these awards help as they embark on college careers at UC San Diego, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and Cal Poly Pomona respectively, where they will be pursuing a variety of majors in the sciences and engineering.

This year's scholarship committee, comprised of six West High parents, had the enormously challenging task of choosing from among a pool of candidates that

reflect the great talent, brilliance, dedication, and compassion of our senior class. The selection process was completed anonymously and based on a combination of factors including GPA, community service, extra-curricular activities, need, and career path. What a group! We salute, congratulate, and thank each and every student who took the time to submit an application.

On behalf of the 2011-2012 West High PTSA Board and the Scholarship Committee, we wish this year's scholarship recipients and all of our graduating seniors, the best in these next steps along the great path to your future success. Do us proud. We know you will!



It's That Time Again-- Emergency Supplies Needed

Our effort to update every classroom emergency supply kit with fresh water and granola bars will begin during Summer Registration. Our goal is to collect these items and have all the 80 classroom bins repacked before the first day of school.

We need your help. Please consider donating a case of water and/or a box of granola bars. A donation of \$20 will provide these supplies for one classroom. Students will be at the front entrance to the school for easy drop-off from 8:00 a.m.–11 a.m. each day of registration. Receipts will be available if requested.

Contact Alesia Giampaoli, WHS PTSA Safety/Emergency Chair, at (310) 543-9074 for more information.

West High PTSA Volunteer Form

West High PTSA counts on parent participation to make our school a better place for our students. Below is a list of activities that the PTSA supports and needs assistance with. Please take a moment to see how you can help at West during the 2012-2013 school year. Fill out this form and return it on registration day with your student or drop it off at the principal's office.

I am interested in helping with: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Registration Packet Collation (July 18, 2012, 9:00 a.m.)
- ☐ Registration (August 21-23, 28, 2012)
- ☐ Warrior Welcome for Freshmen (August 27, 2012)
- ☐ Handing Out Schedules to Students (7:00 a.m., Sept. and Feb.)
- ☐ School Office Front Desk Volunteer (Once per week, 8:00 - 11:30 and/or 11:30-3:00; please list day/time available.)
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Career Center
- ☐ Textbook Processing (September, January, June)
- ☐ Providing Baked Goods for Bake Sales (Back-to-School Night and Other School Events)
- ☐ Campus Beautification
- ☐ Wed./Thurs. Afternoon Concession Stand at Football Games (2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)
- ☐ Thursday/Friday Night Concession Stand at Football Games (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)
- ☐ Preparing PTSA Newsletter for Mailing (September)
- ☐ College Fair (February)
- ☐ Providing Salads or Baked Goods for Various Events
- ☐ Baccalaureate (June 15, 2013; 9th, 10th and 11th Grade Parents Only)
- ☐ Vision and Hearing Tests
- ☐ Grad Night – Help with Fundraising
- ☐ Grad Night – Help Sending Out Donation Letters
- ☐ Grad Night – Help Checking in Students (June, 2013)



Parent Name(s) _____

Student Name(s) _____ Grade(s) _____

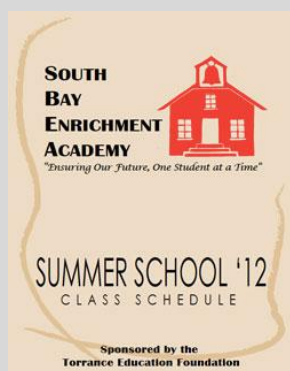
Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

If you have any questions please contact Michelle VanLerberghe, 2012 – 2013 PTSA President, at tdrboo@aol.com. Thank you for your support!

South Bath Enrichment Academy Summer School

Through the combined efforts of the Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) and the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD), the SBEA is continuing the tuition-based summer school tradition. This program, designed largely by credentialed TUSD teachers and offered at all levels for incoming K-12th grades, will enable students to maximize their potential for success. Our classes are designed to supplement student learning at the elementary and middle school levels, while providing acceleration and advancement at the high school level. Each and every student will benefit from small class sizes and take away educational experiences lasting a lifetime.



To download the 2012 Summer School Class Schedule, go to
www.tefsbea.org/2012schedule.pdf

(Excerpts taken from www.tefsbea.org)

THANK YOU to Our Supporters!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the following for supporting West High School and its students.

Lynda McDonough, Keller Williams Realty

\$2,000 donated from the commissions of her house sales

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

63 cases of copy paper

Printing our Graduation tickets

\$11,000 in Scholarships & Academic Department Awards

Title sponsor – Honda-West High School Fundraising Golf Tournament (\$12,000 raised)

Rascals Teriyaki Grill

Chinese Chicken Salad donations for our 8th Annual Faculty/Family BBQ

West High School PTSA

\$18,655 - towards school gifts & student programs:
electric cart and/or security cameras,

12, 10-foot benches, technology carts for classrooms,
SIRS library database, motivational speaker

Exxon Mobil Corporation

\$2,000 towards Clubs & Student Body Activities

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Roulette

\$100 to the Academic Decathlon

Steve Morikawa

4 MVP level tickets to Angel's vs. Texas Rangers game

Mr. & Mrs. Sullivan

\$400 donation to the Art Department for classroom supplies

Maddie Bowers & Torrance Youth Football & Cheer

\$250 towards the Fred Peterson Stadium Sign on the Press Box

Jerry McIlvaine – South Bay Athletic Club

\$1630 towards the Fred Peterson Stadium Sign on the Press Box

Gigi Osco-Bingemann & Vadim Fridman – Wingsong Trust

\$82,000 towards Library, Media Center, Math & Social Studies Departments for technology upgrading

Torrance Education Foundation

\$19,000 towards installation of WiFi campus wide

2nd Semester Finals Schedule Grades 8 – 11

Tuesday June 12, 2012	Wednesday June 13, 2012	Thursday June 14, 2012
Period 0 7:00 – 7:53	Period 0 7:00 – 7:53	
Period 1 8:00 – 10:00	Period 3 8:00 – 10:00	Period 5 8:00 – 10:00
Break 10:00 – 10:25	Break 10:00 – 10:25	Break 10:00 – 10:25
Period 2 10:25 – 12:25	Period 4 10:25 – 12:25	Period 6 10:25 – 12:25

School Supplies for Student Success

- The state budget crunch continues to impact our school.
- Increased student enrollment and printing requirements are depleting our supply budget rapidly.
- Departments are in need of extra funding for equipment and supplies (ex. science classes use consumable lab supplies that cost more than \$10,000!)
- Highly decorated programs such as Academic Decathlon, Speech & Debate, Athletics, and Fine Arts are running on limited budgets.

▶▶▶ How can YOU make an impact?

Contribute to the School Supply Fund Drive! ◀◀◀

Please complete the following:

____ **Yes!** I would like to be a part of the School Supply Fund Drive at West High School. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____. (Please make checks payable to **West High School.**)

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Parent Name _____ Day Phone _____

Address _____

*** If you are unable to donate financially, we gladly welcome donations of reams of white 20 lb. copy paper or gift cards to office supply stores (Staples).

seniors

Class of 2012 Grad Night

Tuesday, June 5, and Thursday, June 7, will be your last chance to purchase your tickets for this once-in-a-lifetime graduation party. There are a limited amount of tickets left. The PTSA Grad Night committee has planned an amazing night of fun for our graduates. This all-night, all-inclusive, safe celebration will be at a secured location. On the night of graduation, June 13, 2012, we'll travel by bus for a fun-filled night of entertainment from 9:15 p.m. – 6 a.m. Don't miss out on this memorable experience!

The ticket price of **\$150** includes transportation, food, fun and supervision.

Purchase your ticket in front of the ASB office at lunchtime, Tuesday, June 5, or Thursday, June 7.

Please Note: There are **NO REFUNDS** for Grad Night tickets and tickets are also non-transferable unless prearranged with the Grad Night committee.

CLASS OF 2012 - ORDER FORM GRAD NIGHT TICKET

Senior's Name _____ Home Phone Number _____

Parent's Name _____ E-mail _____

PLEASE RESERVE MY GRAD NIGHT TICKET!

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Final Price
(**CASH only**) \$150

At this time, payment will be accepted in **cash** only.

There are **NO REFUNDS** for Grad Night tickets and tickets are also non-transferable unless prearranged with the Grad Night committee.

If you have any questions, contact
Jackie Ecklund (310) 542-8752 pegasusbluesky@yahoo.com,
Suzanne Grudnitski (310) 214-8553 sgrudnitski@gmail.com, or
Amy Berg (310) 921-9448 aguababee13@yahoo.com

clubs & organizations

Congratulations Speech and Debate Team! YOU MADE IT TO STATE!

Led by their coach and teacher, Mrs. Natalie Hastings, a team of ten West High students qualified to compete in the 2012 California State Speech and Debate Tournament. Held at the prestigious Lowell High School in San Francisco, this was the 54th Annual Championship Tournament sponsored by the California High School Speech Association. Our team competed against some of the state's best and brightest students in individual and partner categories from Policy Debate to thematic interpretations to original speech events. Representing West High were Daniel Barrett-grade 10, Clara Chin-grade 9, Kaleb Davies-grade 9, Beau Filipic-grade 11, Grace Hwang-grade 11,

Grace Machado-grade 11, Shalin Patel-grade 12, Austin Ralph-grade 12, Kiana Schmitt-grade 11, and Amanda Wullschlegel-grade 11. All ten matched wits with hundreds of other California students in this highly competitive, intense weekend-long championship. We are so very proud of the West High team for this exceptional achievement, seizing the challenge, and demonstrating not only their exceptional verbal skills but also their humility and professionalism. Go West!! Look for the Speech and Debate class of 2012-2013 to follow in these footsteps and continue to make us proud. Parents of incoming 9th graders or other students interested in auditioning for Speech and Debate should contact Mrs. Hastings.



GRADUATION LEIS

Ribbon Leis (\$20), Kukui Nut Leis (\$15), and Candy Leis (\$5) will be available for sale at Baccalaureate and Graduation.

Ribbon leis are available in West High colors, Bert Lynn and Jefferson colors, and a variety of other colors.

If you have any questions, send an e-mail to wheupa@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting the West High Entertainment Unit Parent Association!

Don't Forget!

- Freshman Class Bonding @ Ice Chalet: June 2, 1:00-4:00 p.m., tickets sold by class council members.
- Faculty vs. Senior Baseball Game: June 7, extended lunch.



WHS

June

- 1 Spring Band Concert, 7:00 – Gym
Senior Goodbye Rally
- 2 SAT
Prom, 7:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
- 5 Senior Finals: periods 0, 1, 2
- 6 Senior Finals: periods 3, 4
- 7 Senior Finals: periods 5, 6
- 8 Yearbook Sneak Peek Party, 3:00 – Café 5
- 9 Baccalaureate, 10:00 a.m. – Pavilion
- 11 Senior Trip – Knott's Berry Farm
- 12 Finals – Grades 8-11: periods 0, 1, 2
12:25 Dismissal
- 13 Finals – Grades 8-11: periods 0, 3, 4
12:25 Dismissal
Graduation, 5:00 – Stadium
- 14 Finals – Grades 8-11: periods 5, 6
12:25 Dismissal
Last Day of School
- 15 Senior Diploma Pick-Up

Looking Ahead to 2012-2013 (Tentative)

July	25 – 27	Packet Pick-Up – 8-10 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.
August	1	Packet Pick-Up – 8-10 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.
	21	Senior Registration
	22	Junior Registration
	23	Soph. Registration
	27	Warrior Welcome
	28	Freshman Registration
September	6	First Day of School
October	12	Student Free Day
November	12	Veteran's Day Holiday
	21 – 23	Thanksgiving Holiday
December	24 – Jan 4	Winter Break
January	7	School Resumes
	21	M.L. King, Jr. Day
February	1	Student Free Day
	11	Lincoln's Birthday
	18	President's Day
April	8 – 12	Spring Break
May	27	Memorial Day
June	19	Graduation
	20	Last Day of School

NOTE: The mention of any product or business in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by West High PTSA or West High School.