



1937 - 2007

FOUNDATION FORUM

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Mark your calendar

COME CELEBRATE BACK TO SCHOOL WITH FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT!

A dedicated team of parent volunteers is working hard to welcome all parents back on campus for a special **Back to School Night** on **September 19th at 5:45pm.**

The Foundation is providing **complimentary food and drinks** at this event, so harried parents can come straight from work without having to worry about eating dinner before getting here. Come at six o'clock, eat from an assortment of foods donated by local restaurants.

Enjoy the school's musicians serenading you and special surprise entertainment. Then mingle with other parents, browse through the information tables, and then go meet your student's teachers.

You can also help us put together events like this and help raise more funds for your students by sharing your expertise. If you have any contacts in the local restaurant community for example, or a special talent in creative invitation writing, or in event planning, we want to hear from you!

Please contact Jacqueline at simshona@aol.com to lend your hand in fundraising.

DON'T MISS FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE WITH DR. GAUTHIER

The SDA tradition of First Friday informal meetings between parents and school administrators continues this year. This is a time for parents to get to know Dr. Barbara Gauthier and discuss school issues in an informal atmosphere.

September's First Friday will be held in the B Bldg. Conference Room on Sept. 7 at 7:45am. Coffee is served and all parents are welcome.

San Dieguito Academy

2007 NATIONAL SURF CHAMPS

San Dieguito Academy took **first place** in the National Surf League "The Game" competition held on **June 19th** at San Onofre Trails Beach in San Clemente, CA. Under the direction of coaches **Oly Norris** and pro surfer **Jeremy Sherwin** – the national team members competed for the 2007 Red Bull High School Cup National Championship, the premier high school surfing tournament in the U.S.

The National High School Cup Championship features the best high school teams from all over the nation battling it out for the National Surf League U.S. Crown.

On **June 23rd**, the SDA surf team competed in another premier event sponsored by the National Scholastic Surfing Association (NSSA). At the NSSA Championship Series held at Salt Creek, **San Dieguito Academy placed first in the National High School Championship.**

Congratulations to our outstanding student athletes and to coaches Oly Norris and Jeremy Sherwin for an outstanding season. **Go Mustangs!**

WHY NOT BE A PART OF SDA- YOUR STUDENT'S SCHOOL!

While it is likely your teenager might not relish the thought of seeing mom or dad hanging out at school, there are many ways you can be involved and get a chance to mingle with other parents here at SDA. Besides becoming a volunteer, a wonderful way to make a difference in your student's experience at the Academy is to **become part of our donor community.**

We would all like to think that a *public* education means a *free* education, since it is supposed to be funded by our collective tax dollars. But the reality is that, thanks to Proposition 13, San Dieguito Academy's school district **ranks 88th in funding out of all 93 districts** in the entire state of California! This means that you pay lower taxes, but it also means that the Foundation's financial support – YOUR financial contributions – is needed to cope with ever increasing rounds of budget cuts.

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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM OUR SDAF PRESIDENT

It seems that the summer is all too short, and the beginning of school is upon us again. Welcome back! I hope your summer has been a good break from the routine of the school year, and you are ready to take on new challenges as the school year begins.

Here at San Dieguito Academy Foundation, we have been working throughout the summer to plan our priorities and activities for the coming year. We are actively engaged in our capital campaign for the new Performing Arts Center, as well as in meeting the many need of our students here at SDA. Our mission at the SDA Foundation is "to support the unique culture and programs of San Dieguito High School Academy by generating financial resources and promoting active parent and community involvement." Simply put, we cannot succeed in this mission without YOU. We ask that you donate whatever you can, and give of your time as well.

In the past year, we have donated over \$135,000 in curriculum support and materials to SDA. These donations include

- ◆ New equipment and supplies for Science classes
- ◆ A set of laptop computers
- ◆ Creation of a writing lab, staffed with tutors, to help our students with their writing assignments
- ◆ Online research materials for the Media Center
- ◆ Seed money for the new Robotics Team
- ◆ Visual Arts equipment
- ◆ Musical instruments, and
- ◆ Technical support for the theatre program.

This year's priorities include a multi-media learning system language lab for the World Languages Department; continuation of the writing lab; and curriculum support and materials for the Math Department.

We also have ways to get involved. Currently, our board needs a parliamentarian. We also need a coordinator for passive fundraising, such as E-scrip, and a representative to the District's Legislative Action Network. Our board committees are also happily accepting volunteers.

Please contact Sheila Durkin, our Executive Director, at the SDAFoundation office, or me at mstrich@hotmail.com if you are interested in getting more involved. We thank you for your donations, your time, and most of all, for caring about all the students of SDA.

Marla Strich
President

THEATRE ARTS COUNCIL

Have you ever wanted to be part of the excitement of a theater production?

This is your chance. Join the **Theatre Arts Council**, a low-key group of parents who support the SDA Theatre program. If your student is, or plans to be, an actor or techie this year, this is a great and fun way to get involved. We are fortunate to have a dedicated and talented theatre teacher, Ms. Dasho, who will direct two plays this year: a drama in the fall and a musical in the spring.

Our mission is to support the program with two fundraisers; the first is a fall campaign by mail and the second is a casual dinner where parents socialize and meet each other. We also facilitate pre-ticket sales for the theater families and organize best wishes ads for the play programs.

Theatre parents, come join us! Visit our table at Back to School Night on September 19 to have your questions about the theatre program answered. Our first council meeting will be Wednesday night, September 26 at 7pm in the conference room. After that we will meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome!

The Theatre Arts Council Co-Chairs are:

Terri Lerager, Administration: tlerager@aol.com
Laurel Reidy, Fundraising: l_reidy@sbcglobal.net

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

The **Academic Council** welcomes parents interested in supporting the Academic teams at SDA, such as Speech & Debate, Mustang Minds and Robotics.

As this is a newly re-formed Council this year, please join us with your ideas on how we can best assist our award-winning scholastic teams. The Academic Council is currently exploring fundraising opportunities. Please call or e-mail Susan Pede if you are interested in joining this parent volunteer organization.

Academic Council meets on the 3rd Monday of every month, at 7pm beginning September 17th.

Academic Council Chair: Susan Pede, smpede@gmail.com

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS
TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO WORKED SO HARD
ON TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS DAYS TO
GET OUR STUDENTS PROPERLY REGISTERED.

If you are interested in more volunteer opportunities, please contact Nancy Meisenhelder at nancy.meisenhelder@gmail.com for more information.

MUSIC COUNCIL

We are pleased to report that the music programs at SDA continues to grow in size and quality. It is the mission of the Music Council to provide support for our music programs through fundraising, organization, communication, and advocacy.

The **Music Council** has been working with our music program director, Mr. Jeremy Wuertz, to plan activities for the coming year. These include our annual beginning of the year beach party and Spring Music Awards Night; assisting with set up/receptions at concerts (Coffee Concert, Winter & Spring Concerts, and Chamber Concert); facilitating the purchase of student concert attire; student fundraising; and planning a spring band trip to Chicago.

You can help by making a donation, volunteering, and supporting our students with your encouragement and advocacy. First, please remember to make a separate donation to the SDA Foundation, we all need to support our parent organization!

We will be mailing a package to all students enrolled in fall music classes – more information and opportunities to help will be included. If your student is not on that list, let us know and we will make sure you receive the package. You can also use the SDAF Donation envelope enclosed in that packet.

Thank you for being a part of an important education program – we look forward to another great year of music at SDA. Please consider volunteering your time with us, as I think you will find it rewarding and worthwhile!

Music Council meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m, in the conference room, beginning on Sept. 18. Please join us!

The Music Council Chair is:
Janet Mastrogany 760 944-1805, janlm7@gmail.com

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

SDA's **Athletic Council** is a parent volunteer group that :

- ◆ Actively supports all 18 of SDA's men's and women's sport teams
- ◆ Raises funds so that SDA students can have the best possible athletic experience

The Athletic Council has a big dream of seeing an improved track and a new field at SDA. We are currently actively working to explore ways to raise sufficient funds to turn this dream into a reality.

We are always looking for volunteers, either to assist the individual team reps or to work on one of the Athletic Council projects that benefit all students who choose to participate on an SDA team.

The Athletic Council sponsors the following fund raisers:

CASINO NIGHT - March 29, 2008 - gives you a chance to win at the tables without the risk of losing, enjoy a dinner with like minded people, and participate in a silent auction fund raiser.

BUICK INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT TICKETS - the Athletic Council sells tickets each year at one-half the gate price. All proceeds go to SDA sports. The tournament is in late January and makes great holiday presents for all golfers.

The Athletic Council usually meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m, at the school offices, beginning on September 4. Please join us!

The Athletic Council lead is:
Keith Kelley at 760-634-1868
(the4kelleys@roadrunner.com)

WHY NOT BE A PART OF SDA?

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In the past many of you have attended a Fall Fundraiser event to demonstrate your commitment to the school. This coming school year there will be no Fall Fundraiser.

Given the tremendous number of volunteer hours it takes to put on the Fall Fundraiser, the few volunteers available to work on it, and the relatively low income it generates, we have decided to try some new ideas this year to bridge the funding gap between what the state of California allocates to the school, and what it costs to provide the educational opportunities we believe our kids deserve. So we are giving you that night off... but look in your mailbox for a surprise in the October timeframe. We might be having an **"un-birthday" party** on this occasion, as we wind up the 70th year of our school's founding.

In order to fund the programs and materials that the school has identified as needed, but not funded by district monies, the Foundation Board has also recommended a **membership level at the \$250 level** for the 2007-08 school

year. While this is not an insignificant amount of money for many families, think of it as your fair share in insuring your student is receiving the best possible education a public school can provide. The Foundation spent \$367,990 last year, or *an average of \$229 for every student attending the school.* We urge all of our families to contribute at whatever level is significant and meaningful to you.

Donors at the \$500 level and above will be invited to a special recognition event on **Saturday, October 27th** – mark your calendars! Many exclusive offers will be available that night only, such as a chance to bid on prom package, winter formal package, yearbook package, graduation package, and others. Senior parents might be especially interested in attending...

These packages were normally made available at our Fall Fundraiser's Silent Auction. **This year they will be auctioned off only at the Donor Recognition Event.** Other surprises await that night - details will be mailed to qualified donors in October - watch your mailbox, and get your contribution in before October 1st!



Although school has barely started, we are already thinking about **Grad Nite 2008**. Each year our goal is to put on a Grad Night event that is so much fun that every senior wants to come and to keep the ticket prices as low as possible and offer scholarships so that every senior can come. We are not only affording the graduates a wonderful memory to top off their years at SDA but ensuring that they are not out partying and driving so as to keep both the grads and the community safe.

This is a huge and expensive job and we need help from parents of all grades to plan and fund raise for the event and to ensure a smooth transition from year to year. Everyone will have a graduate someday. We rely on non-senior parents to chaperone at the event so senior parents can relax and enjoy the evening after seeing their child make it through graduation and so grads can relax and enjoy an evening away from the parents who got them through.

Whatever your talents, we can find a spot for you. Games, a boat cruise, raffles, food, entertainment, construction, clean up – whatever you can do, we need it. We need over 100 volunteers that night alone as well as dozens of people setting up. This is a great chance for those new to the school to meet other parents and enjoy yourself at the same time or for those with only a year left to get involved. If you can help by volunteering or donating, please contact Elisabet Harth - elisabetharth@yahoo.com; 760. 436.7523 or Nancy Rady - rady@adnc.com; 760.944.7985.

