



# THE TROUBADOUR EXPRESS

*SCHOOLS OF ACADEMICS, VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS,  
& TECHNICAL ARTS*

Santa Susana High School  
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Simi Valley, California 93063

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October 10, 2011



## COLLEGE PRESENTATIONS



This past Wednesday, the Santa Susana High School Career Center sponsored admissions presentations from Moorpark College, the California State University and the University of California systems.

During TAP, Richard Torres, a representative from Moorpark College, spoke to seniors about the admissions process for Ventura County Community Colleges where the impact of our economy could not be ignored. In an impromptu survey, a majority of seniors stated they are planning on attending Moorpark College after high school. At the same time, certain programs once offered at Moorpark College are being eliminated or consolidated with other Ventura County Community College campuses. Impacted programs and increasing difficulty to enroll in preferred classes may ultimately result in community college programs taking longer than two years for even the most focused student. Lastly, a rise in tuition is expected. Despite all these challenges, Sharon DeMartino, Career Tech Advisor, reminds students that the Community College system continues to remain a viable way for students to obtain their college degrees, save money, and ultimately, attend their dream school.

That same evening, College Visitation Night was a huge success whereby parents and students learned about college application, attendance, and financing processes. Senior Oren DeBottom expressed excitement about the evening stating, “Parents don’t always know about the college system. This night provided a good education about the university system for my parents, and for me!”

CSU representatives Ginger Reyes and Lori McDonald guided a discussion on the CSU system. Of the 23 schools, 16 are impacted, meaning they have more applicants than they have space. One particular sigh of relief came when the representatives acknowledged the fact that when a high school student retakes a class, the CSU system only “sees” the higher grade. Students were also excited about Cal State programs which also include international and study abroad classes.

UC representative Alex Arriaga came from UC’s newest campus, at Merced. He provided information on the world class research and education opportunities offered at the 10 Universities of California.

***Clothes make a statement. Costumes tell a story. ~Mason Cooley***

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

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**Show Us Your Stuff** - The Instrumental Music Department is sponsoring a variety show titled, “*Show Us Your Stuff.*” The show will exhibit the many talents that we have here at Santa Su: vocal, instrumental, acting, dancing, etc. Auditions were held on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The performance will be on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the MPR. Mrs. Kiely, Mr. Higby, and Mr. Reinstein will judge the acts and prizes will be awarded to the winners! Tickets can be purchased online or in the student store: \$8 ASB/Boosters/Seniors/ages 12 and under, \$10 General Admission.

## **STUDENT PARKING LOT – PICK UP**

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Santa Susana High School staff thank you for your concerns regarding pick up in the student parking lot. We have had a traffic advisor make recommendations for sign postings and directing traffic flow. Based on his recommendations, we ask that you kindly ***park in the parking spaces while waiting for your child.*** Traffic backed up onto Sequoia and Cochran creates a dangerous situation. Thank you for helping us create a safer pick up situation for you and your children and assisting us with traffic flow.

## **SANTA SUSANA PERFORMING ARTS BOOSTERS – Update from Andy Steiker, President**

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**Fresh & Easy Fundraiser.** SSPAB earns \$1 for every receipt (of at least \$20) that you turn in to the SSHS front office through the end of December. Please shop at any *Fresh & Easy* and turn in your receipts to help support the Arts at Santa Su!

**Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm will be Boosters’ night at the *Fresh & Easy Market* in Simi Valley** (Alamo and Tapo Streets). During those 4 hours our Booster organization will get 5% of the store’s total revenue (whether it comes from our referrals to the store or anyone else). Five of our Boosters members will be at the store during those hours to greet people, help them bag their groceries, etc. Please remind your students and anyone you may speak to, because this is an easy fundraiser, especially if we can get a lot of people in the store during those hours. It’s the kind of fundraiser that most people like because it doesn’t ask them to buy something that perhaps they don’t need. Everyone shops for groceries, and if people switch to *Fresh & Easy* for that week and shop on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> between 4 and 8 pm, Boosters get a “piece of the action” to help support our students!

## **COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER**

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**PSAT** – The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) will be given at Santa Susana High School on Saturday, October 15, from 7:45 am. All college-bound juniors and sophomores should take the PSAT. The PSAT allows students to practice for the SAT and for juniors, to compete for the National Merit Scholarship and National Hispanic Scholar Awards. Last year, sophomores and juniors were surveyed. 270 tests were ordered based on students’ expressed interest.

**Registration** – The exam costs \$16 and is payable to the Student Store. Registration closes for all students on October 12 (or earlier if the test sells out).

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***Acting is like a Halloween mask that you put on. ~River Phoenix***

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# Upcoming Events- October



**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP** – Tuesday, October 11. The digital photography class will take its annual photo field trip to downtown LA and the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

**PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS** – Wednesday, October 12 at 6:30 pm, MPR. Jason Peplinski, Principal, will be talking to parents about the school budget, his vision and goal for Santa Susana High School, and this year's WASC Accreditation Process.

**FRESH & EASY NIGHT** – Thursday, October 13 from 4 - 8 pm. Support the Santa Susana Performing Arts Boosters by doing your regular grocery shopping at *Fresh & Easy* this night.

**JUNKYARD CAFÉ** – Thursday, October 13 from 6 - 10 pm. After you finish your grocery shopping at *Fresh & Easy*, come on out to the Junkyard Café for dinner and support the PTSA!

**RED ROBIN** – Thursday, October 13 from 4 - 9 pm. After you finish dinner at the Junkyard, move along to the Red Robin for dessert. Or stay for the entire dinner but be sure to bring the attached flier for a 15% donation to Santa Susana High School.

**WASC FOCUS GROUP MEETING** – Fridays, October 14 & 21 at 7:50 am. Focus group team members will meet in the morning to discuss evidence of student learning through vision & leadership, curriculum, instruction, assessment & accountability, and culture & support.

**SHOW US YOUR STUFF** – Saturday, October 15 at 7 pm, MPR. This variety show will exhibit the many talents of Santa Su: vocal, instrumental, acting, dancing, etc. Tickets can be bought online or in the student store: \$8 ASB/Boosters/Seniors/age 12 and under, \$10 General Admission. Mrs. Kiely, Mr. Higby, and Mr. Reinstein will be the judges. Prizes will be given to the winners!

**DOCENT MEETING** – Monday, October 17 at 7 pm. The Performing Arts Center is looking for parents and community members to come out and support the Arts through volunteerism for the 2011-2012 Docent Program. A Meet & Greet, Docent Handbook Training, and Sign-ups will be included.

**EARTHQUAKE SHAKE OUT** – Thursday, October 20 at 10:20 am. Students will practice the duck and cover earthquake drill in preparation for California's Big One!

**HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME** – October 21 & 22 at 7 pm, PAC. Come on out to this scary play in celebration of our student's acting talent and in preparation for Halloween. Presented by Children's Theatre.

**CHORAL CONCERT** – October 28 & 29 at 7 pm. Fall in love again during this annual autumn concert featuring beginning through advanced singers of jazz, madrigal, chamber, and show choirs.

**HALLOWEEN** – October 31. Stay tuned for more information about our costume contest!

***Once in a young lifetime one should be allowed to have as much sweetness as one can possibly want and hold. ~Judith Olney***

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## FOR PARENTS WITH TEENS

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**Keep tabs on your teenager's computer & cell phone usage.** A recent survey found that teens spend about two hours per day online—80% of which is spent using a social networking site like Facebook. Another study found that half of teens send 50 or more text messages a day—roughly 1,500 each month! With statistics like these, it's a wonder that teens get any schoolwork completed at all! Make sure that your teen's grades don't fall by setting limits on computer and cell phone use. **Here's how:**

- **Talk to your teen** about his computer and cell phone usage. Ask him how much time he thinks he spends on computer tasks that aren't school related, and how many texts he sends a month.
- **Check his estimates.** You can get his cell phone usage from the phone company. For his computer use, ask him to keep a log of each site he visits, and how long he spends at each one. He might be surprised!
- **Be realistic.** Your teen really doesn't need his phone while he's supposed to be sleeping. Consider having him "turn in" his phone at bedtime. That simple limit will decrease those texts while improving his quality of sleep. For the computer, think about a simple exchange: For every 30 minutes he reads, your teen can have 30 minutes of computer time to do things not related to schoolwork.

(Sources: J. Van Grove, "Teens Experiencing Facebook Fatigue," Mashable, <http://mashable.com/2010/06/30/teens-social-networks-study>; A. Lenhart, "Teens and Mobile Phones," Pew Internet & American Life Project, [www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Teens-and-Mobile-Phones.aspx](http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Teens-and-Mobile-Phones.aspx).)

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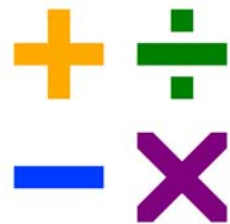
**Share strategies to help your teen succeed on math tests.** Math tests can be difficult to prepare for. After all, there aren't any dates to memorize or essays to write. But you can help your teen do his best by sharing these math test strategies:

### Before the test:

- **Practice.** Redo problems from homework or quizzes. Focus on problems you had trouble understanding or got wrong, and work on them until you are confident in how to solve them.
- **Create a "formula sheet."** On one sheet of paper, write down all the formulas you need to memorize.

### During the test:

- **Write down those formulas** as soon as you get your test. That way, you're less likely to forget what you have memorized.
- **Read the directions carefully.** Don't lose credit for simply forgetting to show your work or circle your answer!
- **Estimate.** If the problem asks you to subtract 32 from 109, you know the answer should be about 80. So if you get 17, try again!
- **Take your time.** Remember, a math test isn't a race.



### After the test:

- **Go back and check your work.** Rework any problem you were uncertain about.
- **Look for careless errors.** Are all of the decimal points in the right place? Did you remember the negative sign?

(Source: *High School Parents*. The Parent Institute. October, 2011. v19:2)

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# Join SSHS PTSA Now!

## SSHHS PTSA Officers for 2011/2012

### President

Cindy Roe

### 1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs

Nikki Killian

### 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Ways & Means

Chris Closser

### Secretary

Jennifer Van Noppen

### Treasurer

Lauren Contini

### Auditor

Cindy Shilkoff

We invite you to join the Parent Teacher Student Association to help support programs, events and activities that the PTSA provides for the school. Membership also gives you a voice and a vote.

Your membership makes a difference in your high school student's education.

Here are examples of the Programs that PTSA sponsors.

- **College Scholarships** (Seniors applying for scholarships MUST be a member of PTSA to be eligible)
- **Practice SAT and ACT Exams** All students are invited to participate!
- **Star Testing Support**
- **Library Enhancements**
- **Performing Arts Center**
- **Staff Appreciation**
- **Reflections Arts Program**
- **Care and Share**
- **Advocate for Students and Teachers at the CA State Level**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**

Membership cost is only **\$5.00 per member!** All parents and family members, students, teachers and staff are encouraged to join. There is no limit to how many friends and family you bring in to support our school.

Fill out the attached envelope and return it to school with cash or checks (made out to SSHS PTSA), along with the names of every member. Include your student's information so they will be eligible for drawing prizes, such as iTunes gift cards. Use a separate piece of paper or another envelope if you run out of room.

There will be a **GRAND PRIZE** for the student who brings in the most memberships!

PTSA Membership Co-Chairpersons,

Nikki Killian-Senior SSHS

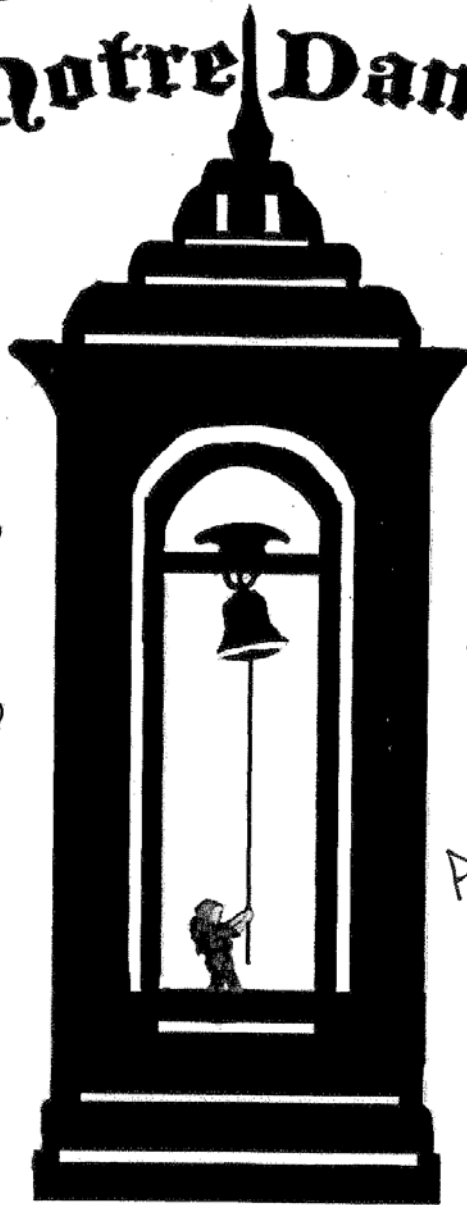
Kenny Closser-Sophomore SSHS

*Santa Susana High School Children's Theatre Presents:*

# **The Hunchback of Notre Dame**

*October 21 @  
7PM (cast A)*

*October 22 @  
7PM (cast B)*



*Tickets: \$16 General*

*\$12w/ASB, Children  
under 12, and senior  
citizens*

*IN THE  
PERFORMING ARTS  
CENTER*

*By Craig W. Stump  
Directed by Melissa Albertson  
Co-Directed by Derek Stern*

*Performed with special permission from Hener Publishing*

**WE DONATE**  
*You devour.*

Fundraiser Night at Red Robin

**The most delicious way  
to support your school.**

Come in and support SANTA SUSANA  
HIGH SCHOOL.

Bring in this flyer on Thursday 10/13/2011  
from 4pm-9pm

and we will donate 15% of our proceeds!

Teachers are trading in their blackboards to serve your  
burgers and donating XX% of their tips to your school



Restaurant use only: POS KEY = Fundraiser

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# *“Show Us Your Stuff”*

A variety show exhibiting the amazing talent here at Santa Su:  
vocal, instrumental, acting, dancing and more!

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
in the MPR**



Prizes given to the winners!



***Buy tickets online or in the ASB student store:***

*\$8 ASB/Boosters/Seniors/ages 12 and under,*

*\$10 General Admission*

**Judges: Mrs. Kiely, Mr. Higby, and Mr. Reinstein**

*Sponsored by the Instrumental Music Department*