



THE TROUBADOUR EXPRESS

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

Santa Susana High School
3570 Cochran Street
Simi Valley, California 93063

Jason Peplinski - Principal
Tee Buckle – Assistant Principal
Wendy Mayea – Assistant Principal

Phone (805) 520-6800

Fax (805) 579-6385

December 12, 2011



The Drowsy Chaperone



Wow! If you missed *The Drowsy Chaperone* musical this winter, you really missed out on an amazing performance. Last weekend, the musical *The Drowsy Chaperone* was performed in the Santa Susana High School Auditorium (PAC). The story is set during days of prohibition. *John Accardo*, narrated the play giving an impeccable delivery so funny and responsive to the audience. Janet, played by *Isabella Moore*, was set to be married to Robert (*Trevor Newton*), but encountered some challenges along the way, such as an undermining Feldzig (*Jake Price*) who was almost baked into a pie by two pastry chefs (*Natasha Sill* and *Natalie Bruno*). Boy did these students impress with some truly outstanding acting, singing, and dancing. In one scene, Robert even skates around the stage blindfolded!

Another unforgettable scene had the audience roaring with laughter when the lavender dressed Tottendale (*Shoshana Micon*) repeatedly sprayed Bruno (*Forrest Holt*). In the end, four marriages were set including the Cruella De Vil-ish Chaperone, (*Nia Coleman*) and Aldolpho (*Holden Streetly*, the suave romantic. This performance was so much fun it reminds me not only of the hard-working and talented students who attend Santa Susana High School, but also about the teachers.

Seven amazing, dedicated teachers brought this play to light with weeks of practice that went as late at 10:30 PM including *Melissa Albertson*, Children's Theater; *Kathryn Kuby*, Instrumental Music; *Irene Silbert*, Stagecraft & Tech; *Bevin Abbe*, Choir; *Karen Giles & Linda Lewis*, Dance; and *Gary Reinstein*, Violinist.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONCERT



The Instrumental Music Department will perform their **Winter Concert** on Thursday, December 15th, at 7:00 PM in the PAC. The concert will feature performances from Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Percussion Ensemble, Production Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, and Wind Symphony. The concert will also include several Senior Project Compositions. From Bach to the Beatles, Danny Elfman to Charlie Brown, the performance will include all styles of instrumental music. Tickets can be purchased online or in the ASB Student Store: \$15 General Admission; \$12 ASB, Boosters, Seniors (65+) and 12 and under.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DVD

DVDs from the “Show Us Your Stuff” Talent Show (October 15th) are on sale in the ASB Student Store. The DVD includes the entire event – all 22 vocal, instrumental, dance, and theatre acts. The winners were: 1st Place - *Nevey Keshav* (dance), 2nd Place - Primo Therapy (jazz combo with *Ben Killops*, *Nick Sandfrey*, *Chance Plaskett*, *Evan Lindley* and *Tyler Hammond*), 3rd Place - *Nia Coleman* (vocalist). Gift cards were awarded to the winners.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE PROJECT by Kerry Burley



What are those tubs doing hanging out by our trash cans? Senior *Kerry Burley* purchased 47 plastic tubs to collect plastic bottles and aluminum cans as part of her Make a Difference Project with the A.P. Environmental Science Class. Kerry takes the plastic bottles and aluminum cans to Simi Valley Recycling who reimburses her the CA Cash Refund amount. After learning that Americans use 2.5 million water bottles daily, Kerry became interested in recycling plastic bottles and aluminum cans, because 60% of those are NOT recycled and left to pollute the soil, air, and water. From class, she was motivated to help save the planet by actively recycling. Troubadours, what are you doing to make a difference?

KUDOS

National Competition for Cyber Security - For the 2nd year in a row, the students at Santa Susana High School entered the Cyber Foundations National Competition for Cyber Security. This competition is sponsored by The Department of Homeland Security, The SANS Institute, and the California Department of Education, among others. Out of 1,217 participants across the country, the Santa Susana Cyber Challenge Team ranked in the top 5-18%: *Adam Carlson*, *William Rucker*, *Edgar Prieto*, *Amarjot Maan*, *Zach Standridge*, *Adam Maske*, and *Byron Lopez*.

A huge congratulation goes out to *Kaitie Krogh* for being accepted into the California All-State Honor Choir. She was chosen out of thousands of students from the entire state to participate in a choir of 300. This is a huge honor and we are very proud of her!

PARENT, TEACHER, STUDENT ASSOCIATION

We want to give a great big thank you to the SSHS PTSA and the Leadership class for putting together a very successful food drive held Nov. 14 - 18, 2011. Approximately 1,150 items were brought into school and then distributed to the Care and Share and Stillwater’s Café here in Simi. This helped many needy families have food on their tables and was greatly appreciated.



GOT LUNCH MONEY?



Hi parents! SSHS wants to protect your child’s money. Therefore, parents can no longer leave money at the front office for their student to pick up at a later time. Parents concerned about their child not having emergency lunch money are encouraged to establish a Cafeteria Account. To do this, write a check to the Santa Susana High School Cafeteria for \$25 or more and submit that check to the main office or cafeteria. For your convenience, the cafeteria also accepts cash. Your child then can withdrawal lunch money from this account for breakfast or lunch!

DANCE SHOW



The Winter Dance Concert, "Awakenings" is just around the corner: Friday, January 6th at 7 PM and Saturday, January 7th at 2 PM and 7 PM in the PAC. This concert of student works includes pieces from "Footloose" (tap) to classical Spanish guitar (pointe) to several very deep and moving pieces by Dance Ensemble. Presale tickets can be purchased online for \$18 adults and \$14 students with an ASB card and seniors. Half-price tickets go on sale one hour before the shows but are subject to availability.

SANTA SUSANA PERFORMING ARTS BOOSTERS

Stay informed about Performing Arts events at Santa Su and our Boosters' activities & fundraisers by checking out our website at www.sspab.org. "Like" the SSPAB Facebook page [Santa Susana Performing Arts Boosters](#) to get updates on what's happening!

Fresh & Easy Fundraiser – Santa Susana Performing Arts Boosters earn \$1 for every receipt (of at least \$20) that is turned in through the end of December. Please shop at ANY *Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market* and deposit your receipts in the *Fresh & Easy* box in the SSHS main office on or before January 6th. Thank you!

"Hairspray" (the musical) – Friday, January 27th, 2012. SSPAB is excited to involve parents and our school community in this upcoming fundraiser! The Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center is generously donating a portion of ticket sales from this night to SSPAB. Attached is the flier and Order Form for tickets to their performance of "*Hairspray*" featuring Santa Su graduate **Jamie Whittington Studer**. By selling out the theater (200 seats), Boosters will raise \$2,000 in much needed funds for Performing Arts at Santa Su. Come out and join us for the fun! Bring the completed order form and your check (made out to SSPAB) to the main office. Seats will be assigned in the order received, so get your order in soon!

PACT Alumni Concert "Back to the Future Part 4" – Saturday, December 17th. See the attached flier for all the details and where to get tickets for this fun event!

The next Boosters meeting will be on Monday, December 12th, at 6:30 PM in Room 104. We would love to see you all there as we discuss subjects of interest to all parents with kids in the arts at Santa Su.

ATTENTION SENIORS

Josten's Discount Pricing for graduation packages is going to close December 16th. Seniors who wish to receive the discount on their cap and gown need to go online at www.Jostens.com or mail in an order as soon as possible. After the group order date, the group pricing will no longer be available and the prices will go up. Parents, a cap and gown would make a great Christmas gift and will last a lifetime!

SENIOR PROJECTS – On Thursday March 29th, the class of 2012 will be presenting their Senior Projects to SSHS faculty and members of the community. A Senior Project is a culminating activity that demonstrates the knowledge and expertise students have gained in their area of focus while attending SSHS. The time commitment is 12:15 pm to approximately 3:30 pm. If you would like to sit on a panel for Senior Projects, please contact Mr. Buckle at tbuckle@simi.k12.ca.us or call (805) 520-6800.



Upcoming Events- December/January

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONCERT – **Thursday, December 15, 7:00 PM, PAC.** The concert will feature performances from Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Percussion Ensemble, Production Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, and Wind Symphony. From Bach to the Beatles, Danny Elfman to Charlie Brown, the performance will include all styles of instrumental music and Senior Project Compositions. Tickets can be purchased online or in the ASB Student Store: \$15 General Admission; \$12 ASB, Boosters, Seniors (65+) and 12 and under.

ALUMNI CONCERT – **Saturday, December 17, 6:30 PM, PAC.** Reunite with your Troubadour friends or just come on out and see what the amazing SSHS talent has been up to since they graduated. This variety show is a must see!

WINTER BREAK – **December 17 - January 2, 2012.** School resumes Tuesday, January 3rd.

AWAKENINGS DANCE CONCERT – **January 6, 7:00 PM and January 7, 2:00 & 7:00 PM, PAC.** Come on out and support our student works' dance concert. This concert will feature a variety of music, from Footloose to Classical Spanish Guitar. Presale Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$14 for students with ASB & Seniors. Half-price tickets go on sale 1 hour before the show.

HOLIDAY – **Monday, January 16.** Appreciate Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement!

FINALS – **Tuesday, January 17 - Thursday, January 19.** Finals for the first semester will take place on these three days. School will be released at 12:30 PM.

Tuesday – Periods 3 & 6

Wednesday – Periods 5 & 7

Thursday – Periods 2 & 4

SEMESTER BREAK – **Friday, January 20.** Students do not attend school this Friday while teachers prepare for next semester.

WINTER FORMAL – **Friday, January 20 from 6:30–10:30 PM.** The winter formal will be held at the Odyssey in Granada Hills. The theme is Old Hollywood.

BE THANKFUL THIS HOLIDAY

If you haven't seen Nicholas James Vujicic, here is your chance. Nicholas is an Australian motivational speaker born with Tetra-Amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by the absence of all four limbs. As a child, he struggled mentally and emotionally, as well as physically, but eventually came to terms with his disability. At the age of seventeen, he started his own non-profit organization, *Life Without Limbs*. Vujicic presents motivational speeches worldwide, on life with a disability, hope, and finding meaning in life.

<http://www.wimp.com/watchingthis/>

(Thank you Mr. Crockenberg, SSHS parent for sending this resource our way!)

FOR PARENTS WITH TEENS

Take Advantage of the Winter Break to Prepare for College



It is never too early for your teen to start thinking about college applications. And winter break can be a productive time for all teens to think about the future:

- **A freshman or sophomore** can use this time to start looking at college websites and brochures. If he has an idea of what he would like to study in college, he can focus on schools with strong programs in that area. He can also look at requirements for his potential course of study—that way, he can talk with his counselor in the spring about making sure he takes the appropriate classes in high school.
- **A junior** can narrow down the list of colleges he'd like to visit. The spring is when many colleges have open houses. Make travel plans now, if necessary—booking early often means getting the best prices. If your high schooler is super-motivated, you might also suggest he write a practice college application essay or update his résumé.
- **A senior** should be wrapping up his college applications—many are due in January. Remind him to make copies of his applications before he sends them, so he's not starting from scratch if one gets lost in the mail or if the file doesn't go through. And celebrate when he has completed all his applications!

(Source: "College Application FAQs," CollegeBoard, www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/the-application/8487.html)

Stick to Good Attendance Over the Winter

In winter, the sun rises later—and your teen sure would love to get up later, too. It may be tempting to let your teen sleep in occasionally, especially with winter break right around the corner. But resist that impulse. Research has shown over and over again that attendance makes the difference between school success and failure.

After all, your teen's classes are still going on even when she's not there. Teachers don't just say, "Well, I guess we'll just sit here today, since Madelyn's out." Your teen's classmates are continuing to learn, while your teen falls behind. And students who have dropped out of school often report that falling behind in their classes is one of the reasons they dropped out.

So strive for perfect attendance this December. And let your teen know that as a reward, she can sleep in a little later over the winter break.

(High School Parent Still Make the Difference. December 2011. v19 no. 4.)

Looking to save money? Do it now by purchasing Winter Formal Tickets or a Yearbook as a Seasonal Gift for your beloved Troubadour student. AP Exams (\$87) will also go on sale this February. Other upcoming expenses include Prom, Senior Activities, and Grad Night at Magic Mountain.

Happy Holidays





SIMI VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT
Kathryn S. Scroggin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board of Education
Rob Collins
Jeanne Davis
Janice DiFatta
Arleigh Kidd
Debbie Sandland

November, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are all well aware of the fact that today's young people are technology savvy. From iPods to Netbooks to Smartphones with applications for everything imaginable, kids are continually "connected" at younger and younger ages.

In Simi Valley our students are no different than students across the country. No matter where they are, including school, the cell phone seems to be a necessary school supply carried by many students. Students text and call friends and family throughout the day. For this reason the Simi Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) has a Board Policy on the use of cell phones at school. Board Policy 5131.2, Student Use of Electronic Signaling Devices, specifies that "...cellular telephones...shall not be visible while school is in session except during those times specified for cellular phone usage. Such devices may remain in a locker, a backpack, a pocket or other secured area during the instructional day and during school programs or activities." All middle and high schools provide students with guidelines for cell phone usage at school. These guidelines are usually printed in the school's agenda book.

Understanding that cell phones are not going away, the Board of Education for the Simi Valley Unified School District has set the guidelines referenced above to promote an environment conducive to learning. Recently, however, our Board recognized that there may be other issues related to cell phone usage. While some current studies show that the extensive use of cell phones is not connected to serious illness, other studies conclude that extensive usage could be harmful to our health. In fact, the World Health Organization recently concluded that cell phone radiation may cause cancer and added cell phones to their list of substances that could be "possibly carcinogenic to humans."

We bring this to your attention so that you can, as you see fit, talk to your children about responsible cell phone usage both in terms of use at school and in terms of potential health issues. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer suggests that, until more conclusive studies are conducted, people should attempt to reduce exposure by using hands-free devices and texting.

We appreciate your partnership with us in your children's education. Together we will continue to help students learn and grow so they can become educated, healthy and productive citizens.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathryn Scroggin
Superintendent and
Secretary to the Board of Education



PACT
presents....

"Back to the Future, Part IV"

**Santa Susana High School's 1st Annual Alumni Benefit Concert
December 17, 2011 at 7:00pm (Refreshments begin at 6:00pm)**

Tickets only \$20!

For Ticket Information call or email Teri Hypes

805-520-6800 x1155

thypes@simi.k12.ca.us

McKinney Vento Educational Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Act ensures educational rights and protection for youth and children experiencing homelessness. If you believe that your child(ren) may be eligible for the support provided by the Act, contact your local school district Liaison.



Who is considered Homeless:

- Renting a room from another family
- Renting a garage from another family
- Moving from one family member's or friend's house to another family member's or friend's house
- Living in a car or trailer
- Living in a motel or hotel
- Without housing
- Being evicted from your current housing in the next 30 days
- Living in a shelter or transitional housing or
- Living "doubled up" with another family because of economic hardship,

Your child may be eligible for extra services at school. These services include:

- Enrolling your child in school even if you do not have all of the necessary paperwork. Each school district has a liaison to help students enroll who are currently living in a temporary situation.
- Keeping your child in the last school he or she attended even if that school is in another district. It is your decision to determine what is in your child's best interest.
- Providing free school meals.
- Identify transportation needs and work with the parent/guardian to ensure that those needs are met.
- Access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students, including transportation and supplemental educational services.
- Providing school uniforms, supplies, and access to all school activities.
- Having access to a dispute resolution, should a disagreement arise. The district liaison will assist with this procedure.

**Unsure whether your child qualifies or
is eligible for services?**

**Please call:
The Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Project
5189 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93036
(805) 437-1526**

All collected information will only be used for the purposes of providing educational services pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Act and is protected by federal and state laws

SANTA SUSANA PERFORMING ARTS BOOSTERS

FUNDRAISER AT THE SIMI CULTURAL ARTS CENTER



Featuring Santa Susana 2011
Graduate
JAMIE WHITTINGTON-STUDER
AS
TRACY TURNBLATT

Friday January 27th at 8 PM

Tickets are just \$25.00 per person (a portion of each ticket goes to SSPAB)

(Tear-off)

Name _____

Address (for delivery purposes) _____

Number of tickets _____ @ \$25.00. Amt enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to SSPAB
Orders should be turned into the main office

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SANTA SUSANA PERFORMING ARTS BOOSTERS