



DECEMBER, 2012

# THE PATRIOT PRESS



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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

(By Larry Oshodi)

Dear Patriots,

Happy New Year! We return to school this semester with a number of changes to our facilities and instructional program that I wish to share with you. But first, we mourn the sudden loss of Captain (Ret.) Ben Whitener, our ROP Fire Science teacher who passed away on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Mr. Whitener was a young, highly intelligent and engaging educator who positively touched the lives of many students at Heritage, Freedom and Dozier-Libbey high schools. He was always cheerful and fully committed to the success of his students on and off-campus. Captain Whitener was a true local hero as a fire fighter and an educator who gave all to his beloved East Bay community. We will miss his dedication, positive energy and passion for student learning.

Our district's solar energy project is in full swing with construction at all schools including Heritage. Necessary underground work was done during the winter break, which required all parking lots to be closed down at that time. I apologize for the inconvenience caused to parents and students during this period. With that part over, the project will continue in phases, impacting only a section of the students' parking lot at each phase. During each phase, extra parking will be available at the temporary parking lot by our Softball fields (close to Adams Middle School). Clearly, this project will put some more strain on our daily traffic challenges. Thankfully, this will

only be for a short period of time. Furthermore, the anticipated savings from the project will benefit our students and community now and into the future. I ask that all parents and student-drivers plan accordingly, allowing extra time to park or drop-off and pick-up daily. I do appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this construction period.

Some of the staffing cuts we suffered at the beginning of the year due to the state budget crisis will be restored based on updated budget projections since the last general election. We are happy to welcome back to Heritage, Mrs. Lisa Sullivan, Assistant Principal for our SLC-A. With her return, SLC-A students currently assigned to other SLCs will be re-assigned to SLC-A for administrative support. Counseling support will not change as we will continue to function with three counselors on campus. SLC-A students will remain with the counselor they are currently assigned to. This change will take immediate effect and SLC-A students will soon be issued with new ID cards.

Another change we are excited about is our Patriot Preview Night on Wednesday, January 30, 2013. Our staff has worked hard to replace our traditional Open House with an evening designed to truly benefit our students and parents. We want all students and parents to come on campus that evening (from 6:30 p.m.) to preview courses and programs we offer before students choose classes for the next school year. Course selection is scheduled for the week following the Preview Night, so it is very important that you and your student(s) take

advantage of this opportunity. Moreover, on the same evening we will have our popular Career Fair showcasing careers within our four Academies; we will also have our only Advanced Placement (AP) presentation for students interested in taking any of our rigorous AP courses next year. Finally, we will have a College Planning workshop to provide parents and students with the nuts and bolts of admissions as well as paying as little as possible for an excellent college education, even with a high total family income. So, please mark your calendars!

It is worth noting that these changes support our unchanging goal of providing a safe environment for all students to excel academically and socially. I must also note that another unchanging element we enjoy at Heritage is the unbelievable support of our parent community. As I've said in the past, our school continues to achieve at high levels because of the direct efforts of many parents who work tirelessly in support of our common goals. On behalf of our students and staff, I thank you all!

**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
(By Larry Oshodi)

School Advisory Council meetings are now held at 3:15 in the **Career Center**. We hope to see you at one of the following meetings:

January 17, 2013  
February 21, 2013  
March 14, 2013  
April 18, 2013  
May 16, 2013

***Congratulations Students of the Quarter!***

**Math**

Jessica Anderson  
Erica Chen  
Jacob Cruce  
Sarah Palmer  
Erika Publico  
Anthony Yeoman

**English**

Matthew Alinaya  
Nicole Breznik  
Dalton Chamberlain  
Raia Cherednikov  
Ugonnaya Chilaka  
John Chin Jew  
Amber Dziedzic  
Chandler Hancock  
Caitlin Kingi  
Thao Thanh Le  
John Madrid  
Kaylin Morford  
Kara Rodota

**Social Studies**

Jeren Calinisan  
Ayah Elshaer  
Landy Gu  
Kierstin Kolte  
Alexandra Mace  
Danielle Tamura

**Science**

Christopher Alvarado Turley  
Da Vonte Cadena  
Gurkamal Dhaliwal  
Gloria Gonzalez  
Addie Goyette  
Jalil Lecky  
Ron Rubio  
Katrina Sudweeks

**Motivational**

River Bowman  
Juliana Butalla  
Veronica Caywood  
Yesenia Guardado  
Logan Reno  
Natania Silot

**Visual & Performing Arts**

Jonathan Briseno  
Iris Fermin  
Stephanie Gomez  
Chelsea Lindsey  
Toby Lloyd  
Joshua Lund Soyombo  
Kaitlyn Shusta  
Taylor Yahne

### **Career Technology**

Madeline Bustos  
Jacob Olsen  
Celia Rivera

### **Physical Education**

Matthew Allred  
Jamee Bullock  
Kamren Carey  
Viviana Gonzalez  
Angel Silot  
Kiara Taylor

### **World Languages**

Brenton Curran  
Andrew Kenkel  
Aaron Larsen  
Mason Orloff  
Mitchell Pickering  
Morgan Sasser  
Ivana Satre

CAREER CENTER NEWS  
(By Michelle Snyder)

## **FAFSA**

The FAFSA is used to apply for federal aid, state and some college aid. You apply on line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You can apply beginning January 1, 2013—March 2, 2013 to qualify for federal and state aid. You will need a student and parent ID PIN and they suggest applying for that November through December. The FAFSA PIN is your personal identification number that you will use to electronically sign your application. You can also use this PIN to check the status of your application.

## **Cal Grant & DREAM ACT**

A CAL Grant is the California state financial aid that can be used at most California schools. There is a two-part process in applying for a CAL Grant. 1—You must submit a CAL Grant verification form—HHS will do this for you electronically, if you complete and return the CAL Grant Verification form. 2—You must complete the 2013-2014 Federal Application for Federal Student Aid

(FAFSA) by March 2, 2013. Then CSAC will use the information from the FAFSA and GPA to determine your eligibility. Students who want to apply for the Cal DREAM ACT can pick up a verification form in the Career Center.

## **Local Scholarships**

Heritage High School partners with HHS clubs, boosters and the community to offer scholarships to assist students in their goal of attending college after high school. The program is open to all graduating Heritage students pursuing post high school options. The application is available on the HHS website and in the Career Center and is **due to the Career Center no later than Feb. 1st by 4 P.M.** HHS will honor all recipients at our annual Scholarship Night on **May 21st**, in the Heritage Auditorium.

## **Senior College Calendar**

**JANUARY:** FAFSA filing period opens. Learn how to finance college at the Financial Aid Night for parents and students on Jan. 16th at 6:30 p.m. You could be the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship.

**FAFSA HELP--1/29, 2/5, 2/12 & 2/19**  
**1:30-4:00 HHS Career Center**

**FEBRUARY:** Local Scholarship Applications are due Feb. 1st by 4 P.M. Check with the Career Center for LMC Admissions Workshop and Assessment dates.

**MARCH:** 2nd is the last date to file the FAFSA for CAL Grant awards.

**APRIL:** Expect to hear from colleges by mid-April. You can check your Cal Grant status at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov>, once you have been notified by mail.

**MAY:** Plan to attend the Awards Night on **May 9th** and the Scholarship Night on **May 21st**. Request final transcripts at [www.docufide.com](http://www.docufide.com).

**JUNE:** Graduation on the 8th at 9:30 a.m. in the Patriot Stadium.

NEW

## UP Coming Events College & Career Events

**PLAN:** 1/23/2013, 8:15 a.m.

**MOCK SAT:** 2/23/2013, 9:30 a.m.

**ASVAB:** 3/6/2013, 8:15 a.m.

**College Awareness Night:** 4/11/2013

**SAT Essay Workshop:** 4/16/2013, 3:30 p.m.

**College Essay Workshop:** **TBD**

**Want to Play  
College Sports?**

**You MUST  
Know Your Core  
Course GPA.**



Heritage High School has teamed up with CoreCourseGPA.com to provide custom online software to all student-athletes to assist in tracking their progress towards meeting NCAA initial eligibility requirements.

CoreCourseGPA.com calculates core course GPA for both the Division I and II, provides corresponding minimum SAT/ACT scores, and a detailed report of core course credits earned and needed.

All student-athletes are encouraged to activate their FREE membership to begin tracking their core course GPA and learn more about important recruiting topics. The sooner, the better - every semester counts!

**Activate Your FREE Membership**

**Step 1:** Go to [www.CoreCourseGPA.com](http://www.CoreCourseGPA.com)

**Step 2:** Click "Free New Member Account"

**Step 3:** Enter School ID and School Code

**Step 4:** Complete Registration Form

**School ID: 050386**

**School Code: 737678811**

### GRAD NIGHT (By Deanne Perkinson)

The Grad Night Committee is already busy planning for the 2013 Grad Night Event! We need parents to get involved to make this event a success and are especially in need of underclass parents to get involved.

January 25<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Bunco Fundraiser, held at Trilogy at the Vineyards. Tickets are \$25 which includes appetizers. There will be raffle items available as well as fabulous auction items including reserved

seating and parking for this year's graduation ceremony.

More information can be found on the Grad Night link on the HHS website homepage or by calling Tamara Cushing at 925-640-5752 or by emailing the HHS Grad Night Committee at [infor@hhsgradnight.com](mailto:infor@hhsgradnight.com).

This will be the only Grad Night fundraiser for this year so please help us make this a huge success.

Happy Holidays!

### PATRIOT PREVIEW NIGHT (By Crystal Shaw)

Please join us for Patriot Preview Night on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Starting Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, students will attend course selection presentations. They will then be able to visit the academies, departments, and AP classes during the Patriot Preview Night to help them decide on the classes they would like to take next school year.

We will have a Career Fair in the Multi-Use room. During the Career Fair students (and parents) will be able to "meet and greet" the professionals with different careers related to the variety of local professionals that are associated with our career academies. You will also be able to get information regarding the career academies.

Department Visits - This will be the night for students and parents to visit all of the departments on campus so that they can see what classes they may be interested in taking next school year.

AP Parent Night - We will have four 20-minute sessions for students and parents to

attend to get more information on a variety of AP classes.

During Patriot Preview Night, parents will also have an opportunity to attend a College Planning presentation. Parents can discover "How to Send Your Kids to the Best, Most Expensive Colleges in America for Pennies on the Dollar!" with author, entrepreneur, motivational speaker and College Coach™ Phillip Anthony. Including:

- Options for paying for college.
- How families making over \$100,000/year are receiving tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships regardless of their assets or student's grades.
- The secret ingredients to motivate your student to prepare for college admissions & success, even if they have no idea of what they want to do in life.
- The top 10 biggest myths about the college planning process.
- How to tap into tax scholarships and other award resources that could dramatically reduce your cost for college.

HERITAGE PERFORMING ARTS  
BOOSTERS  
(By Steve Ernest)

The Heritage High School Holiday Ensembles performed at Raley's and Safeway (on Balfour) every Saturday and Sunday during the holiday season.

Our award winning Jazz Band, under the musical guidance of our Band Director Steve Ernest, played for our Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Proceeds from these fundraisers are going to help support our students traveling to New York next spring to perform at Carnegie Hall and Central Park (and other future trips).

The Wind Ensemble played in the Veteran's Day Celebration at Veteran's Park and the Drum Line participated in both the Brentwood Holiday Parade and the Discovery Bay Parade of Lights.

Congratulations to our Band Students of the Month: September-Michael Dutcher, October-Shaylin Matosich. Michael Dutcher was also our Student of the 1st Quarter.

CALIFORNIA SCHOLARSHIP  
FEDERATION (CSF)  
(By Hillary Pedrotti)

Applications for membership will be available on the Heritage CSF club page (on the HHS website) for Fall semester 2012 starting in January 2013.

Membership for CSF must be earned each semester, and application must be made during the first four weeks of the 3rd quarter (January 7-31). Print the application from the club page, attach a copy of your 1st semester (Fall 2012) grades and return to Mrs. Pedrotti in Room A-101 by **Friday, February 1st at 3:00 p.m.** No late applications will be accepted as per the CSF by-laws, so do not wait until it is too late!

HERITAGE RISING STARS  
(By Hillary Pedrotti/Chris Fallows)

**Heritage Rising Stars presents the U.S. high school premiere of Queen's rock musical, We Will Rock You!**

Heritage has been selected by Queen to produce the National Premiere of their musical which has been a hit in London for 8 years.

**Performances are: March 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, and 15 at 7:00 p.m. and March 9 and 16 at 2:00 p.m.** Tickets will be \$18 for adults (of all ages) and \$12 for students (of all ages). Tickets will go on sale in January.

After last year's success with **Hairspray**, we anticipate selling out this show before we open and will likely not have tickets available at the door the nights of the show. To avoid disappointment, go to [www.hhsrisingstars.com](http://www.hhsrisingstars.com) for more information on how to order tickets.

Thank you for your support of our students and program.

**ROP TV BROADCASTING FIELD TRIP**  
(By Gus Guardado)

On November 13th and 14th, Mr. Guardado's two ROP classes went on the 2nd annual short film shoot field trip. The purpose of the field trip is to give students the real world experience of shooting a short film at various locations all in an 8-hour day.

The students were given a 6-page script and assigned various crew positions such as Assistant Director, Director of Photography, Sound Recordist, etc. Mr. Guardado directs the shoot and casts the actors, but all other preparations are made by the students and the challenge is to get it all shot within the 8-hour time constraints. This year's script was entitled "Joan of Brentwood" and tells the story of what would happen if Joan of Arc magically survived her burning at the stake and was transported to Brentwood.

A special "thanks" goes to the owners and staff of Digger's Diner, who were kind enough to allow both classes to shoot at their restaurant for two straight days at no charge, and thus helped give the production true real world authenticity.

**HERITAGE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS CLUB**  
(By Chris Wakefield)

The Athletic Boosters Club is a non-profit parent organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing the school's athletic program.

If your child participates in athletics and you haven't yet completed your 2012/2013 membership enrollment, please do so by visiting the Club website at: [www.heritageathleticboosters.com](http://www.heritageathleticboosters.com).

**Your Club at a Glance:**

In spring of 2013, the Athletic Boosters have two big events in the works. Our first event is the annual Patriot Poker Tournament on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Senior Center. Don't worry, this is for people 21 years old and up only and organized by a reputable company that specializes in these events. There will also be a raffle for a bunch of different items. How could you lose? And, of course, our annual Dinner/Auction affectionately called "The May Event." This also will be held at the Senior Center (May TBD) and promises to be a fantastic event for the coaches and parents alike. Don't forget the special baskets that are up for auction. You won't want to miss it.

Each event has the potential to generate a lot of money and we need help from parents to make them a success. Please make sure to donate your time and expertise to any or all of these events. You can contact Dwayne Mullins at [insurancedwayne@yahoo.com](mailto:insurancedwayne@yahoo.com) or Chris Wakefield at [c.wakefield@comcast.net](mailto:c.wakefield@comcast.net) if you're interested in volunteering or can lend a hand in coordinating these events. If you have a son or daughter participating in Cheer or Athletics, WE NEED YOU.

**CAREER FAIR**  
(Darlene Rodriguez)

Heritage High School will be hosting a Career Fair during our Patriot Preview Night on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Career Fair is an opportunity for our students to meet and speak to professionals in a wide variety of careers.

We need professionals who are interested in inspiring our students. If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested and



would like more information, please contact any of the following Academy Coordinators:

Laurie Laprade  
Engineering, Technology and Art Academy  
[lapradel@luhsd.net](mailto:lapradel@luhsd.net)

Kacey Cesar  
Environmental Sciences Academy  
[cesark@luhsd.net](mailto:cesark@luhsd.net)

Darlene Rodriguez  
Health and Recreation Academy  
[rodrigud@luhsd.net](mailto:rodrigud@luhsd.net)

Matthew Carr  
Law, Government and Public Service  
Academy  
[carrm@luhsd.net](mailto:carrm@luhsd.net)

**AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB**  
(By Charleen Lovick)

**Students:** Need help with your homework?  
Want someone to proofread your papers?  
Need to type a paper but don't have a  
computer at home?

**H.E.L.P. is here!!**  
(Heritage Extended Learning Program)  
**3:00-4:30 p.m.**  
**Monday\* thru Thursday**  
**Room C-111**  
(\*Exceptions include: 2nd Monday  
of the Month)

You must follow all school rules and be working on homework in order to come to the HELP program. Disruptive students will be asked to leave and/or receive a referral.

**ABI PARENT PORTAL INFORMATION**  
(By Gina Kroner)

The Liberty Union High School District has transitioned to a new Student Information System, Parent Portal through ABI (Aeries Browser Interface) for parents. We think you will enjoy the new interface and access

to more timely information. The attendance in the portal is updated live-time, as are any assignment updates completed by the teachers.

**How do I get an account?**

Accounts were generated at the end of the first quarter. Any parent with an accurate email address listed in the student's electronic record received an email with the login process as soon as the portal was opened.

**Do I have to have an email address listed to get an account?**

Yes. If your email address is not listed in your child's record and/or you did not update it at walk-thru, please contact the school or email [hhsattendance@luhsd.net](mailto:hhsattendance@luhsd.net) to have that information listed in your child's electronic record. If you do not have an email account, you can create one for free through G-mail.

**Can my son/daughter sign up for an account?**

Yes, your son/daughter can sign up to access his/her own account. To do so, your son or daughter's email address should be listed in the student's record. The view for a student is identical to that of a parent, so they will want to select "Student" when asked what type of account they want to create.

**Are there resources available to me so I know what to do?**

The ABI Parent Portal website was completed with FAQs, video instructions, and other documentation to assist you in navigating the portal. The interface is intuitive, so I think you will really enjoy the new service.

**Who do I contact if I need assistance?**

If you need assistance, you may contact Heritage directly; however, we request that you first go to the online resources on the **Parent Info** tab to address your questions.

### CAFETERIA COMPUTERIZED PAYMENT SYSTEM

The Liberty Union High School District recently adopted the Nutrikids computerized Point-of-Sale payment system for meals purchased in the district's cafeterias. Some parents may be familiar with a similar system that is used by some of the elementary schools.

Each student has their own meal account based on their Student ID number. Transactions will only require that the student swipe their ID card across a scanner that is located at each cashier terminal.

The posting of credits to your child's account is done on the Nutrikids website by using a credit card or via Paypal. A link to nutrikids.com is on the Parent Portal, and also on the HHS website. You will be able to view your child's meal purchases online, by accessing your account on the Nutrikids website. We are encouraging you to create an account for your child, but the system is flexible, so you may still pay for meals with cash.

If your child qualifies for Free-or-Reduced price lunches or breakfasts, this information is securely contained within the system and the transaction will be processed just as it is for all other students.

If you are concerned about a food allergy that your child has, please provide the cafeteria with this information. A warning will appear on the cashier's screen for a quick review of the items on the student's meal tray.

### TRANSCRIPTS (By Michelle Snyder)

Need a Transcript? Visit the HHS website at [www.luhdsd.net/heritage](http://www.luhdsd.net/heritage) and visit the Counselor page under the Student Info tab. There are two options for transcript requests - Electronic or Other. The electronic process is quick, easy and provides a

tracking system. The other process requires printing out a completed form, turning in the form to the Registrar for processing, then pick up/mail out. There is no tracking method with this process.

### HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS (By Larry Oshodi)

► Sarah Peddie won the prestigious Warren W. Eukel Teacher Trust award with a cash prize of \$10,000. This award "recognizes truly gifted teachers who excel in the field" and recipients are recognized by dignitaries including the President of the United States. It is indeed wonderful to be associated with a fine educator like Sarah whose abundant compassion for students is equally matched by her passion for student learning. Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Peddie for this acclaim. I also want to thank her for bringing this high honor to our school and district.

► Deer Ridge Trail – We are grateful to the Liberty Union High School District administration, Brentwood Unified School District administration, City of Brentwood and the owners of the property between American Avenue and Mountain View Drive. An agreement has been reached to lease the upper trail to the districts so our students can continue using the short cut to and from the Deer Ridge community. That trail is now open for use. We are grateful to the community resource organization, 511 Contra Costa, for their financial support with fencing the trail.

► For all of you science, naturalists, rock and history folks....meet the California State Rock, "Serpentine". California has a greater number of minerals and a wider variety of rock types than does any other state. Serpentine, a shiny, green and blue rock found throughout California, was named the official State Rock in 1965. It contains the state's principal deposits of chromite, magnesite, and cinnabar. California was the first state to designate a State Rock. It is



located in the student parking lot entrance to Sandie McKillip's Garden, the county building and the gym breezeway.

► The following student athletes have signed college letters of intent:

**Haley Rose Love** – Washington State (swimming)

**Ryan Barsanti** – Wisconsin (swimming)

**Malia Rivers** – University of Georgia (softball)

**Joshua Calmerin** – Sonoma State (baseball)

**Sabrina Englestad** – St. Marys (basketball)

**Erin Asher** – California Baptist University (basketball)

**Destinee Williams** – Bethune Cookman (softball)

► Jennifer DeRego was named League Female Coach of the Year for Fall sports. Congratulations Jennifer!!

► Cross Country and Girls Volleyball received the Distinguished Scholastic Team Award for having one of the highest team GPA in our section.

**INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT**  
(By Valerie Noble)

**LIBERTY UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR  
2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR**

Intradistrict Transfers Requests will be accepted for the 2013-14 school year during the month of February 2013. **Forms will be available from February 1st – 28th at the District Office or online at <http://luhsd.net>. All requests must be submitted no later than February 28, 2012.**

The District Office is located at:  
20 Oak Street, Brentwood  
Office Hours: 8:00a – 4:30p daily.

For further information please contact Valerie Noble at [nobleval@luhsd.net](mailto:nobleval@luhsd.net) or 634-2166 x 2021.

**OFFICE DEPOT 5%  
BACK TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM**  
(By Rose Thompson)

Help us earn FREE supplies. Heritage will earn credits equal to 5% of your qualifying school supply purchases to use for free supplies. Whether you shop online, over the phone or at your neighborhood Office Depot store, remember to give our school ID# 70209024. You can credit the school year round.

**TARGET'S TAKE CHARGE  
OF EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
(By Rose Thompson)

To date, Target® has donated over \$300 million to help K-12 schools through their Take Charge of Education program. When parents, teachers, and other school supporters use the REDcard®, Target donates up to 1% of their purchases to the eligible K-12 school they designate. To learn more about the program, visit [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe).

**SAFETY CORNER**

► Due to the amount of traffic in the student parking lot before and after school, Heritage encourages parents to drop off/pick up in the designated areas on American Avenue and to arrange carpools when possible.

► Be careful when driving to and from school in wet and freezing weather. AAA advises people to prepare well in advance for rainy day driving. Leave earlier than usual to account for slippery roads, traffic jams, etc. Slow down and be more aware of

your surroundings when driving in wet weather.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP  
OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF SAFE!**