



THE PATRIOT PRESS



SEPTEMBER, 2012

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (By Larry Oshodi)

Dear Parents,

We are off to a great start to the 2012/13 school year. Despite challenges imposed by the state budget on public schools in California, our Patriot family continues to find ways to serve our students productively. As you may know, this year we have reorganized our operations around three small learning communities (SLC) instead of our usual four SLCs due to cutbacks in staffing. It is certainly my hope that we will return to a semblance of normal operations in the near future.

The traffic situation on American Avenue remains a challenge. I want to thank our parents and students for your patience and understanding as you come to school daily in the heavy traffic. I can inform you that the project to install traffic lights at the entrance to our students' parking lot has finally been approved by all concerned governmental agencies. The installation is planned for the fall break and expected to alleviate the traffic congestion a bit.

Please look out for your child's STAR test results in the mail. I'm excited to inform you that overall our students performed very well on the tests leading to an increase in every category when compared to last year and other previous years. I congratulate our students and staff for this remarkable academic achievement, more so during these hard economic times. We eagerly await the

release of our Academic Performance Index (API) score in early October.

I also want to use this opportunity to thank all active members of our different booster clubs and our Patriot Parents Organization (PPO). These parent-volunteers continue to work hard to provide resources and create a safe environment conducive to the academic and other achievements we celebrate and are proud of.

Finally, I intend to meet with parents at coffee shops in town again this year. Please check our school website soon for the dates and times. I truly enjoyed the opportunity to hear from you and also share some information with you in that informal setting and I look forward to doing that again.

Sincerely,

Larry Oshodi

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:

November 15, 2012
December 13, 2012
January 17, 2013
February 21, 2013
March 14, 2013
April 18, 2013
May 16, 2013

Congratulations Students of the Quarter!

Math

Matthew Petures
Danielle Herrera
Kiara Towse

English

Celia Rivera
Sarah Cereda
Nicole Breznik
Joshua Bahns
Celine Castano
Raquel Asi
Laurie Bell
Monica Sanchez
Morgan Gallegos
Hillary Gallagher
Julia Burns
Danielle Tamura
Emily Brennan
Diana Hernandez

Social Studies

Marisa French
Miguel Flores
Morgan Wentz
Suttera Samonte
Syeda Rida Zahra

Science

Logan Dorsey
Scott Camara
Isaac Ashworth
Edjig Ayehu Sellassie
Josephine Aseremo
Jack Strauss
Tristen Heredia
Austin Cauwels

Motivational

Austin Bethea
Joshua Guardado
Holly Morales
Breanna Salgado
Alicia Rodriguez
Cameron Offord

Visual & Performing Arts

Suryah Aryaei
Geneva Hamilton
Madisun Marquez
Michael Dutcher
Natalie Lara-Agraz
Sarah Dillon
Danielle Bradley

Career Technology

Austin Johnson
Matthew Bryant
Sarah Ragasa

Physical Education

Carson Cleverly
Angel Garcia
Ezra Magalei
Donovan Downey
Kyle Marshall
Kyle Rilk

World Languages

Hilary Tam
Allison Rohlfs
James Marquez
Kayla Clarke
Maxwell Herbert
Ugonnaya Chilaka
Miranda Breves
Margaret Winding

CAREER CENTER NEWS
(By Michelle Snyder)

WHO

Attention college-bound high school students, parents and guidance counselors.

WHAT

www.CollegeWeekLive.com is the world's largest college fair and online admissions event website. It's free and supported by the U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid office.

WHERE

www.CollegeWeekLive.com It's free.

WHY

At *CollegeWeekLive*, you can . . .

- **Chat live with admissions reps from 300+ colleges**– show your interest!
- **Find \$2.5+ million in financial aid & scholarships** from participating colleges.
- **Hear what campus life is like via student video webcasts** from favorite schools.
- **Get great admissions advice** from experts presenting live via video on topics like “How to write a college application essay” and “How to find scholarships.”

Register now at CollegeWeekLive.com

Want to Play College Sports?

You MUST Know Your Core Course GPA.



CORECOURSEGPA.com
Addressing Recruiting and Eligibility...at its Core.

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

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

RISING STARS

(By Chris Fallows/Hillary Pedrotti)

Heritage High School has been selected by Queen's management team to produce the National High School Premiere of We Will Rock You, the Queen musical! We are honored to have this premiere and we will be pulling out all the stops for this one. Auditions begin on October 29th. Rehearsals start after Thanksgiving. If you have questions or want more information, please email Mr. Fallows at fallowsc@luhsd.net.

In order to do this show right, we need concert-style lighting, which requires the purchase of multiple intelligent lighting fixtures, which are very expensive. In order to raise the necessary funds, we are trying something new: Crowdfunding...so hi-tech. We have created a campaign on the site Indiegogo to get the word out and raise the lighting funds. You can check out our campaign at www.indiegogo.com/hhswillrockyou.

We would appreciate your support in one or more of the following ways:

- 1) If you would like to make a donation, that would be terrific. Follow the instructions on the campaign site.
- 2) If you could please “like” our campaign, we can potentially move the campaign to the front page of Indiegogo's site, attracting more donations.
- 3) If you could link our campaign to your Facebook and/or email the link to friends and family, we would be so grateful.

We appreciate your support for our students and our program. Thank you very much.

HONOR ROLL ASSEMBLY
(By Crystal Shaw)

The Honor Roll Assembly will be held on October 18th and 19th in the theater.

SLC-B – October 18th at 10:00 a.m.

SLC-C – October 18th at 12:15 p.m.

SLC-D – October 19th at 10:00 a.m.

If your student qualifies for Honor Roll, they will receive an invitation to attend. Hope to see you all then!

ATHLETICS
(By Pat Cruickshank)

Welcome to the start of what is certain to be another exciting year of Patriot Athletics!

It was great to see so many parents and students at our Athletic Orientation Night on August 7th! The size of the crowd shows us how important Athletics is to a well balanced comprehensive high school such as ours. Highlights of the evening were:

- Mr Oshodi talked about what it means to be a Patriot both as a student competing in athletics and as a parent supporting your child, their team, and the coaches!
- Mrs. Snyder presented an overview of CoreCourseGPA.com, which is a program you and your child can utilize to keep track of their eligibility to play sports at the collegiate level. You can contact her in the Career Center for more information or take a look on the school website. There is plenty of other information there including recruiting advice and a webinar.
- I gave an overview of the new athletic forms and policy that are all available online. Please take a look

and familiarize yourself with this new information.

As for our athletes, they are preparing for a season of tough competition in the always competitive Bay Valley Athletic League! Our fall sports include Football, Girls Volleyball, Cross-Country, Boys and Girls Water Polo, Girls Golf, and Girls Tennis.

I would be remiss if I did not throw out a huge 'Thank You' to our Booster Club for their tremendous support for Athletics. The boosters have done so much for all of the teams over the past 7 years and this past year was no exception. They gave out \$13,000 in scholarships to some very deserving student-athletes and also gave over \$29,000 back to the athletic teams to use for purchasing equipment, pay for tournaments, and enhance the athletic experience of all of their athletes. They are a hard working organization and they need your help! Thanks to the outgoing board led by Julie Selin, and welcome to the new board and President Dwayne Mullins!

Finally, I am always answering phone calls and e-mails about various questions regarding our athletic department, schedules, forms, policies, etc. And while I enjoy speaking with parents and getting to know you, most of the information people are looking for is in the Athletics section of our website. All necessary forms are now available there as well as current team schedules and contact information for each Head Coach. Go check it out!

Until I see you on the field, court, the course, or the pool deck....

GO PATRIOTS!!!

HERITAGE ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB
(By Chris Wakefield)

New HABC Board members highlight a summer of hard work.

The 2012/2013 Heritage Athletic Booster Club hit the ground running with a major turnover of board members, participation at the Cornfest, four days of Walkthrough and of course the beginning of Football, Cross Country, Tennis, Volleyball, Water Polo, and Golf.

At the end of the 2011/2012 year, Julie Selin and the rest of the board members decided to forego another year of HABC tasks. During the 2011/2012 year alone, the HABC raised roughly \$40,000.00 for Heritage Athletics which went to equipment and scholarship awards. Congratulations to Julie and the rest of the board for a fantastic effort this past year and a deep appreciation for all their hard work.

Replacing Julie for the 2012/2013 year is Dwayne Mullins. Dwayne has three athletes at Heritage, is a local Brentwood business owner, and has been part of the Brentwood baseball and soccer coaching community for many years. Dwayne will be leading a team of equally committed volunteers in all aspects of the Booster Club including membership, snack bar, merchandise and business donations all for the support of our athletic programs and the students that participate. Also new to the Board is Vice President Chris Wakefield, Treasurer Cris Rook, and Secretary Debra Carr.

The 2012 Cornfest was the first challenge presented to Dwayne and his team. This year, Heritage was given the responsibility to manage two separate parking lots with roughly 1,500 parking spaces total. With only a couple weeks to prepare, the HABC board assembled volunteers (indentured family members in most cases) and spent all three days of the Cornfest dealing with heat, wind, dust and the occasional angry

attendee. It was a true team and family effort.

Up next was the four days of Walkthrough. Getting the word out about the importance of the HABC to parents with student athletes and adding memberships was the main goal to new Membership Chairman, Billy Kepo'O. With the assistance of some very enthusiastic volunteers, Billy obtained 279 new memberships and 5 new business memberships. HABC membership is the cornerstone of our success and to date we have a total of 417 members which adds up to a 62% increase already from last year!

Merchandise was also a big hit with the parents and kids alike. New Merchandise Chairperson, Kim Phipps, will be keeping the trailer stocked full of your favorite Heritage gear. Keep an eye out for the merchandise trailer at all Home football games and other school activities.

Are you ready for some...Tri Tip Sandwiches? The HABC, with the help of many volunteers, manages the snack bar at all home football games and home basketball games. New snack bar Co-Chairs, Thelma Mullins and My Christian, can be found hard at work making sure the Tri-Tip sandwiches and other delicious food and drink items are readily available. The snack bar is our biggest fundraiser and of course the most labor intensive to manage. Candy, chips and drinks will also be sold near the merchandise trailer at home football games and we're hoping large crowds will continue to make the snack bar a major fundraiser for Heritage athletics.

The HABC also has a new Business Sponsorship Chairperson, Kathaleen Baisch. Obtaining local business support is a major key to our success and Kathaleen has been busy reaching out to many businesses around the county. If you are a business owner, local or otherwise, please consider being a Booster Club Business Sponsor.

This spring we have some big events planned. The HABC is organizing a poker tournament and of course we'll have our famous "May Event" that everyone loves to attend. More information regarding both events is forthcoming.

There is a misconception that only the higher profile sports reap the benefit of the HABC fundraising efforts. This is NOT true. The money raised at events such as Cornfest, Walkthrough or the snack bar at football games is earmarked for ALL sports that participate in Booster Club activities through volunteerism. The more you volunteer, the more you make for your sport. It's that simple. So please become an active member of the Heritage Athletic Booster Club. Friend us on Facebook, consider becoming a Business Sponsor, and just as important, volunteer!

-For more information, please go to www.heritageathleticboosters.com or you can find us on Facebook.

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

Kacey Cesar
Environmental Sciences Academy
cesark@luhsd.net

Darlene Rodriguez
Health and Recreation Academy
rodrigud@luhsd.net

Matthew Carr
Law, Government and Public Service
Academy
carrm@luhsd.net

HERITAGE PERFORMING ARTS BOOSTERS (By Steve Ernest)

Come cheer on our very own Heritage High Varsity Drum Line as they face off against the Liberty High Drum Line. This fun and friendly competition takes place after the varsity football game and under the scoreboard at Liberty High School's Ohmstede Field on October 19th.

Our *Holiday Ensembles* will soon be heard playing wonderful music at various locations in the community during November and December. Please stop by to have a listen and show your support for our students who will be traveling to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall and in Central Park next April.

Please join us for our annual 'Breakfast with Santa' event co-sponsored by the Heritage band students and The Rotary Club of Brentwood. This event will take place Saturday, December 8th at the Shadow Lakes Golf Club located at 401 W. Country Club Drive. The Heritage High School Jazz Band will be performing and all proceeds from this delicious pancake breakfast with Santa will help offset the travel costs to New York and future trips for our band students. For ticket information, please contact Cindy Vogler at (925) 516-0832.

The Heritage Bands' Winter Concert will take place Thursday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the theater. Come enjoy an evening of music showcasing our Concert, Symphonic, Orchestra, Percussion, Wind

Ensemble and Jazz musicians. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students.

This year the Varsity Drum Line and several members from the band participated in the Cal Band Day on September 8th. The day began at 5:45 a.m. with our rehearsal at 7 a.m., then a campus tour, lunch in the stands, an exciting game, a half time performance with the Cal Band and members of 21 other High School Bands. We finished our day with pizza at Pinkies in Walnut Creek. It was a fun day!

The Student of the Month for August is Amanda Kiar who is a senior and has expertly handled set duties as a member of the band council going on her second year. Congratulations Amanda!

The drum line will be performing this year in the Holiday Parade in downtown Brentwood and the Parade of Lights in Discovery Bay. Details will be posted when information arrives on our school website under "Activities/Band/Calendar".

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 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 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.

OCTOBER IS CREEK AND CHANNEL SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

In support of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's ongoing efforts to educate the public on creek and channel safety, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors has declared this October to be the first Creek and Channel Safety Awareness Month. We must take advantage of this opportunity to speak to our children and friends about the dangers of fast moving storm water and the almost certain fate that awaits anyone who goes into rain swollen creeks and channels. The flood control channels are part of our community's infrastructure and, like freeways or railroad tracks, should never be used for recreation.

The flood control channels are designed to drain storm water from our communities and take it swiftly "out to sea", preventing flooding. Water from the surrounding watershed area first gathers in small streams and creeks and then flows into the large channels for a swift trip to the Delta, Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. This storm water can pass from small open creeks to large underground tunnels; from narrow rocky stream beds to wide concrete channels; all the while gathering debris, speed, volume and power. At key points along the way, large structures have been

built into the system to slow down the water and control the power. This allows the water to flow back into wide earthen channels without destroying their natural habitat or causing erosion. These structures are an efficient tool in managing our floodwaters but can be deadly for humans.

This annual campaign is to remind us that, like thinking of sunscreen in the Spring, we must become aware of the dangers around us and take the necessary steps to educate ourselves and our children to avoid them. Please talk to your children and friends about the flood control channels. Appreciate the great job they do for our community, but leave the channels to storm water and

Stay Out, Stay Alive!

For more information please visit:
www.cccounty.us/creekandchannelsafety

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (By Guy Rognlien)

■ The City of Brentwood has begun installing traffic lights at the intersection of American Avenue and our student parking lot in hopes to release congestion and allow traffic to flow more freely during “peak times”. According to the City Engineer, this process should be completed prior to our return from Fall break. Please slow down and drive defensively.

■ During the Fall break, workers will begin the process of installing our new solar panels in both the staff and student parking lots. The panels will serve the purpose of using renewable energy, saving money, and providing more lighting and covered parking against the elements. If all goes as planned, the process will begin and end by the end of this school year. A temporary parking lot will be made prior to closure of any lots. More information will be available after the break.

■ The entrance to the County Office of Education Building and Patriot Gymnasium is also undergoing improvements including a Memorial Garden honoring Sandie McKillip (teacher, coach, and true Patriot) who recently succumbed to her battle with cancer. There will be an official dedication ceremony planned after completion.

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.

SAFETY CORNER

In this section of our Parent Newsletter, we cover topics related to campus safety and how you can assist. The Safety Corner will also be available on the school website where you can make comments and ask general safety questions.

► All visitors, including parents who need to drop off items for their student, must park in a visitor parking space (located near the front of the school) and report directly to the Administration Building.

► Students have been doing a great job wearing their school ID allowing us to better identify potential non-students on campus. Please continue to help your student remember to wear his/hers everyday.

► On Professional Development Days (specific late start Wednesdays), all staff members are required to collaborate and supervision is unavailable until 9:15 a.m.

Therefore, we ask that students not be on campus until then.

► Heritage High School complies with State law, coordinating and practicing fire, earthquake, and intruder drills at least 4 times a year.

► Many of our students are walking across very dangerous sections of Balfour Road rather than using the crosswalk at American Avenue. In addition, many parents are making illegal turns into the Loop Road exit off of Balfour. These two actions are creating a very hazardous situation. Please help us keep all Heritage students safe by discussing the importance of using the designated crosswalks and drop-off zones. Brentwood police will begin monitoring the area and citing violators as needed.

► 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.

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