

## SJND Parent Newsletter September 2009

### SJND Welcomes New Dean of Students



Kwasi Reed began his duties as Dean of Students on Aug. 24. Reed received his BA at CSU San Bernadino and his MS in Education at Claremont University. He taught English, History and Journalism at the Vanguard Learning Center in Compton, as well as Fremont Middle School in Pomona. Most recently, Reed served as the Dean of Students at Leadership Public School, a charter school in Oakland. In his role as an administrator, he has handled student discipline, planned and facilitated professional development for teachers, worked with teachers on classroom management strategies, facilitated the school's Parent Association and served as the Athletic Director. His diverse range of experiences will allow him to contribute in many ways here at SJND and the school is excited to have him as the newest member of its team. Mr. Reed can be contacted by phone at 510-995-9461 or at [kwasireed@sjnd.org](mailto:kwasireed@sjnd.org)

### Back to School Night is Sept. 3

Back to School Night is your chance to follow your son or daughter's class schedule and meet their teachers. Parents will have a chance to hear about classroom expectations, course work, and receive information about the class. Please arrive at 6:30 p.m. to have some coffee and share the time with other parents. Please report directly to your son or daughter's homeroom no later than 7 p.m. You will receive materials and class schedules in that homeroom session. We look forward to seeing you all at Back to School Night. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Fonzeno at [gfonzeno@sjnd.org](mailto:gfonzeno@sjnd.org)

### Helen Romero '10 Represents SJND at Girls State



Helen Romero '10 attended the annual Girls State Conference this past summer. The Alameda Women's Auxiliary sponsors one female junior from SJND to attend this prestigious conference. Romero was nominated by several of her teachers at SJND to apply and then interviewed with the ladies from the Auxiliary club. Impressed by her eloquence, interest in government, and her energy, the club chose Romero to represent them and SJND at the Girls State conference.

"If I had to describe my experience at Girls State in one word, it would be "AMAZING!" I went to the conference thinking it was going to be an informative camp about the government and how it works. I was not expecting to leave attached to the people and events I experienced. The program consists of young women running a mock government. We ran for office and were appointed government positions. I got to be a City Council member and also held several appointed positions. We discussed issues such as health care, welfare, and capital punishment. We had to make decisions on which political party to be affiliated with (Whig or Tory) and come up with our platform. I came out of the Girls State experience with new friends and a new appreciation of the way our state government runs. I am very appreciative of the teachers who nominated me and of the ladies of the Alameda Auxiliary who sponsored me."

# Student Life News

## Senior Parent Reminder

Seniors will receive their Graduation order packet from Jostens Sept. 2 in Homeroom. This is the ONLY ordering materials for graduation announcements, and the graduation gown and cap. EVERY senior must complete the form to order a graduation gown. There is no cost to families for the graduation cap and gown. Josten's is our exclusive supplier for the official graduation announcement for SJND students. Many families send graduation announcements to their friends and relatives to celebrate this milestone, but purchasing these items is optional. The orders will be delivered in the spring, but must be ordered at this time. Orders will be taken Sept. 9 at lunch.

## Welcome Dance is Sept. 11

The first dance of the year, "Pilots of the Caribbean" will be held Sept. 11 from 7-10 p.m. in the SJND Quad. Tickets are \$8. There will be games, music and food for purchase. The SJND casual dress code is enforced. All students MUST be picked up from the dance by 10:30 p.m.

## Magazine Drive Ready for Kickoff

The Student Life Magazine Drive kicks off on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at the Welcome Rally. Each student is required to turn in at least 5 orders or a total of \$125 in sales. Every student has already received an ordering packet. Please make checks payable to SJND. Online orders are extremely quick and easy. Check out the website: [www.magfundraising.com/sjnd](http://www.magfundraising.com/sjnd).

## Parent Association BBQ

The SJND Parent Association's Welcome Barbeque is slated for Saturday, Sept. 19 in the SJND quad, from 5:30-9 p.m. Come for Saturday Mass and stay for dinner. This is a fun event for all members of your family. Student clubs will be hosting desserts and we will have "Pilot Idols" for entertainment. Watch for more information from the Parents Association. Tickets will be available on the SJND Online Ticketing website in September.

## Books Are Flying Off the Shelf



The SJND Library is busy as ever. Students are scrambling to get a great read for their daily SIR time. Ms. Dlugosh, the librarian, states, "Each school year brings new hopes, new friends, and new books for the library! All summer, I read book reviews. My first week back to work I catalogued and covered 150 books so they would be ready for check out the first day of school." Some students could not wait for their scheduled library visit in English class, and searched the shelves for the perfect book the first chance they could get. 175 books in total were checked out during the first week of school. Library books check out for three weeks, but a handful of books have already made their way back to the shelf with students rummaging for their next great read. Students who are looking for a book can browse the online catalog at <http://tinyurl.com/sjndbook> Also, check out the [library's new flickr page](#) to see more photos of students choosing their books.

## NHS Helps the Community

National Honor Society members have already been at work helping their community. Students donated new school supplies, including backpacks, for local foster children. They also brought in good used clothing to give to the Davis Street Resource Center, where some families will be shopping for school clothes for their kids. The next NHS project will be a fundraiser for Smile Train to help fund cleft operations for toddlers around the world who would not otherwise be helped. For more information on how you can support NHS and their service projects, please contact Ms. Micheli at [cmicheli@sjnd.org](mailto:cmicheli@sjnd.org)

## Close Up Trip 2010

Each year Junior and Senior students from SJND have the opportunity to participate in a week-long visit to Washington D.C. This trip is coordinated and sponsored by the Close-Up Foundation, a national organization dedicated to teaching students about the Federal government ([www.closeup.org](http://www.closeup.org)). This is always a very exciting trip for students. They will meet students from all over the United States and will explore both the historical and cultural sites of the nation's capital, including the nation's Capitol Building, Smithsonian Institution, Supreme Court and other sites. They will also visit the various memorials including the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial Wall, World War II Memorial, the Holocaust Memorial, and others. Students will hear speakers from various governmental departments, and will visit with Congressional representatives, senators, staffers, and members of the press corps.

Plans are underway for this year's Close Up trip. Any current junior or senior student considering going this year should contact Mr. Fonzeno for preliminary materials and for further information at [gfonzeno@sjnd.org](mailto:gfonzeno@sjnd.org)



## Fall Drama Auditions Are Sept. 21 and 22

Join us for the zany Fall Drama production of "The House of Blue Leaves." Auditions will be held Sept. 21 and 22 in Rm. 201 after school. Contact Ms. Henderson for more information [jhenderson@sjnd.org](mailto:jhenderson@sjnd.org) Click here to read more about the play...

The play is set in Sunnyside, Queens, in 1965 on the day Pope Paul VI visited New York. John Guare's early, breakthrough play features mockingly observed nuns, a lethal (but farcical) political bombing, and a G.I. earmarked for Vietnam. The protagonist is a zoo keeper (Artie Shaughnessy) who dreams in vain of making it big in Hollywood as a songwriter. To add to the countercultural loopiness, Shaughnessy has a wife named Bananas who really is bananas! In the period's R.D. Laing-Ken Kesey tradition, Bananas, a schizophrenic destined for a cuckoo's nest (the house of Mr. Guare's title), is the sanest character in the work.

## Students Ace Presidential Physical Fitness Test

The Presidential Physical Fitness Test recognizes students for their outstanding level of physical fitness in the following five events: curl-ups (sit ups), shuttle run, endurance run, right angle push-ups, and the sit and reach. The Presidential Physical Fitness Award is presented to students who score at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile (based on the School Population Fitness Survey) on all five events.

The SJND Physical Education Department would like to congratulate the following five students that received this award in May.



Pictured from left to right are: Nikko Degrano '12, Crystal Estrada '12, Crystal Lee '12, Danielle McGuinness '12, Vanessa Maholland '12

## Campus Improvements

The following campus improvements have been made for the 2009-10 school year:

- LCD projectors have been placed in all classrooms, complete with cart and VCR/DVD player. New screens have been placed in classrooms where needed. This will allow teachers to project anything they need onto classroom screens to enhance learning and best utilize technology.
- Four interactive SMART Boards have been installed in classrooms. Teachers will receive training for these interactive whiteboards, which allow teachers and students to interact with technology in new ways. To learn more about SMART Boards, go to <http://smarttech.com>
- As we continue to plan for a Student 1:1 Laptop Program, a dozen teachers have been given the Apple MacBook Pro laptop to use in a pilot program to determine whether the Apple platform is one SJND may use for its student program. Additionally, the school is exploring the possibility of using netbooks for students and the option of using PCs is also one we will explore. We hope to make a decision on platform by the end of this school year.
- The office of Mrs. Jean Kuznik, Assistant Principal of Student Life, has been moved from San Jose Hall to the main administration building. This will consolidate the offices of administrators in one place so that we can best work together collaboratively and provide the best customer service to our parents and students.

## **H1N1 Safety Notice**

As we return to school, there has been renewed attention to the H1N1 flu virus. Local and national media have increased their attention to this issue and have worked hard to communicate to the public best practice for staying healthy.

At SJND, we are following guidelines and procedures given to schools from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Catholic School of the Diocese of Oakland.

## **Give to the SJND Annual Fund**

The Annual Fund is one of SJND's most important fundraising activities. It raises our school from a place where students get a quality education to a really excellent college prep high school. The money we raise goes toward program improvements and strengthening curriculum.

We ask that all families contribute to the Annual Fund. Please give what you can. It is the commitment to giving that counts. Our goal this year is \$300,000.

"I love this place," said Steve Mullin, father of Sean '07, Erin '08 and Kate '11. "This is a good place for our kids. So give to the Annual Fund and support this school."

Parents will be receiving letters and pledge cards next month asking for their participation in the 2009-10 Annual Fund. In October, parent volunteers will be calling families during the Annual Fund Phonathon. If we have not received a pledge by that time, they will be happy to collect your pledge information.

A simple way to make a significant contribution to is by donating online.

## **Senior Update Newsletter**

The Counseling Department sends the Senior Update e-newsletter bi-monthly to seniors and their parents. This newsletter includes very valuable information regarding scholarship and financial aid information, college rep visit dates and College Board testing dates and deadlines. It is important that both seniors and parents read this newsletter. The first Senior Update will be sent out at the beginning of September. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Costa at [fcosta@sjnd.org](mailto:fcosta@sjnd.org)

## **Parent Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Crab Feed**

The 2010 Crab Feed Committee is looking for volunteers to help with this year's Crab Feed. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Abigail Coté at [acote@sjnd.org](mailto:acote@sjnd.org)

### **Drama Field Trips**

The Drama classes need parent volunteers to chaperone field trips to matinee performances at the American Conservatory Theatre. Volunteers are needed Oct. 1 noon to 4 p.m. and Jan. 28 noon to 4 p.m. To volunteer or to get more information, please contact Ms. Henderson at [jhenderson@sjnd.org](mailto:jhenderson@sjnd.org)

The Athletic Department wishes to thank Dr. Karen Vance (mother of Shane Vance '11) for performing over 50 physicals for SJND students last month. Thank you!