



Pursuing Educational Excellence in a Caring, Positive Environment.

Helix Charter High School PTSA

HELIX HI-LITES

Volume XLXII, Issue 1
Principal: Douglas D. Smith

Foothills Secondary Council, Ninth District, Inc., CCPTS
PTSA President: Lori Free-Trout

September, 2002
Editor: Pam Davis

Legislation

The Ninth District PTA holds monthly meetings to share legislation information and provide advocacy training. Meetings are the third Friday of each month from 9:30 am – 11:30 am at the San Diego County of Education. If you are interested in attending please call Pam de la Torre at 619.465.7409 so we might carpool.

The Microsoft and National PTA homework website at <http://www.microsoft.com/pta> has been created to help parents learn about homework issues and find ways to assist their children with assignments. This site also offers information on how students can use technology more efficiently to make homework easier. For information on how to make a smooth transition from middle school to high school check out http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/bts/a3_transitions.asp.

For ways to prepare for parent teacher conferences and advice on parent teacher communication contact http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/bts/a12_ptconferences.asp

Pa de la Torre, Legislation

Proposition T

Helix PTSA has taken a SUPPORT position on Proposition T, the GUHSD General Obligation Bond on the November 2002 ballot. Bond monies would be used for school facility improvements in all of the GUHSD schools. For a partial list of what would be done at Helix Charter High School, see the signs posted at the front of either the staff or student parking lots. For more information, or to volunteer to work on the campaign, please e-mail lhmann@ibswb.com or call Lisa Hamann @ 466-7230.

What's Up With H.C.O.P.?

The Helix Community Outreach Program (H.C.O.P.) is undergoing a redesign. If you recall, the last two years we held town hall meetings on various important topics. While the meetings were rich in discussion and packed with important information, turnout was low—especially when compared with the costs advertising, etc.

We (teachers and parents) have decided that it is important to continue having informative and rich meetings. There just may be a better way to reach more parents. As such, we have decided that rather than “advertise” general topics to the entire school, we will try to be more focused, advertising to a smaller group of parents who may have more specific concerns relating to their children.

If you have any ideas for focused meetings with topics that affect a particular group of parents (or want to hold one yourself), please let us know, and we will support the effort. Our support consists of, but is not limited to, getting teachers there, providing the facilities, providing the food, securing guest speakers and offering monetary support.

We will also support parent meetings already in place!

Please contact Dave Watkins at 644-1940, ext. 398; dwatkin@helixcharter.net with any ideas or questions.

Restructuring Committee

The Restructuring Committee is key in making decisions about change at Helix. We are looking for a few interested parents to sit on this committee and help us make decisions affecting change. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 3 PM in Room 1470. Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 10, our second, Tuesday, October 8. Call Howard Estes (ext. 353 or email at hestes@helixcharter.net) if interested...or just show up. Our major focus this year is revision and re-certification of our charter.

PTA President's Message

Dear Friends at Helix,

We are all looking forward to an exciting and enriching year at Helix. The Students at Helix are often asked to be more productive and challenged than students at other schools and with your support they will not only meet but also exceed their goals.

If you are new to Helix, we welcome the opportunity to help you with your transition as you begin your Helix High School adventure. Your student will need your involvement more than ever at this new level. They may tell you otherwise, but as a parent myself, I can tell you that your commitment to their education is paramount to their success.

There are many ways to be involved at Helix. Whether you sell tickets at the Football games, chaperone the 24 Hour Relay, sit on Senior Boards or help with mailings, you will be sending a message to your student that you are there for them. It also gives you the chance to observe your child “and his/her peers” without intruding.

However you choose to keep track of your Student in this fast paced and amazing world of High School, we hope that you will take time out to join the PTSA and support the programs and events that we promote.

We are a voice for ALL children and we look forward to meeting you. We welcome your attendance at our Monthly PTSA meetings.

We continue to work on communication between Helix, The Parents and The Community. We welcome your suggestions on how best to accomplish that.

Working together we hope to accomplish our goals of Parent Education, Involvement and Student support. Best wishes to all of you in 2002/03.

Lori Free-Trout

CALENDAR UPDATES

Sept. 21 Saturday Parent Day
Oct. 16, 17 Final Exam Schedule
Oct. 18, 19 INTERSESSION
Oct. 21 First day of Quarter 2
Oct. 25 Homecoming
Nov. 11 Veteran's Day—NO SCHOOL
Nov. 18 Progress Reports Due
Nov. 27-29 Thanksgiving Break

Please visit these parent-friendly and informative web sites.
<http://www.foothillscouncil.org> • Helix High School: helixcharter.net

7323 University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91941 • 644-1940 ■ HOTLINE Ext. 911

Band Begins Busy Marching Season

The Highlander Band is gearing up for a busy competitive marching season this fall. The band is learning its field show based on the music from Fiddler on the Roof and the parade march will be March Grandioso. In addition to performing at home football games and practicing each Tuesday night, the band will compete with other bands at prestigious events such as the Mt Carmel Invitational on October 26 and the Arcadia Festival of Bands on November 16. The two final performances of the official marching season will be at the Mother Goose Parade in El Cajon on November 24 and at our Grossmont District Field Spectacular, which will be held at the Monte Vista H.S. stadium on Tuesday, November 26 at 6:00 p.m. You can buy tickets for the District Show from any band member for only \$5.00.

Do You Need Help with Math?

The Mathematics Department does tutoring each day Monday through Thursday from 2:50 - 3:50 after school. Tutoring is done by our own math teachers.

SAT Prep Classes

Targeted primarily for Helix juniors and sophomores, Helix AVID and PTSA again this year will sponsor classes to prepare students for the college entrance exams. Each 2-hour long class emphasizes effective shortcuts and testing strategies, and provides instruction and testing experience for the math and verbal portions of the SAT I. Classes will be held every Thursday in October - the 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. The first class begins at 6 P.M. in room 1470; remaining classes begin at 6:30 and end at 8:45 P.M. The fee is only \$35, which includes the manual and all materials. Registration flyers can be picked up and returned to the Career Center or the Avid room, #1470. *Caroline Ulle*

Fast Pass

The ASB is selling "Fast Pass" tickets for all sports. Purchase a pass for the entire season - home games only. This keeps you from waiting in lines. If you have any questions please contact the ASB.

Congratulations to **JOHN VANDERPOT**

For the second year in a row he was the first staff member to join the PTSA!

Thanks John!

Attention

Anyone 16 thru 125 years old. Take advantage of The Regional Occupational Program (ROP) classes that are offered at Helix High School. These classes are free to anyone 16 years old or older. There are both day and evening classes. current class offerings are; Computer Applications, Computer Repair, Furniture Manufacturing, and Printing & Graphics. If you are interested please contact the ECROP office at (619) 590-3965.

Social Studies Department

In an attempt to improve communication to parents, the Social Studies Department will be including information on the many subjects offered. In future issues, you can learn about the AP Test Scores in AP Economics, AP Government, AP Psychology, AP US History, and AP European History. We will compare the results of these programs to other schools in the district/county. In addition, we will show data from past years to demonstrate the successes of these programs.

In addition to AP scores, Golden State Exam results and information on the Oral History Project will be discussed in future PTSA newsletters. We welcome your suggestions and feedback. If you have any questions about the Social Studies Department, please contact Paula Ann Trevino 644-1940 x394.

Good Health To Our Kids!

In an effort to address the concern of many parents, staff, and students about the food served during school on Helix's campus, Scott Patton (the marketing teacher) and his class have taken over the old Taco Bell location on campus, near the cafeteria, to provide fresh fruit and fresh fruit drinks. Try it, you just may like it!



Helix Library Open To Assist Students

Before and after school and during Wednesday Tutorials students may use the Helix Library for research, to compose papers on the computer, or to read. The Library staff are happy to help students. Parents with questions are welcome to call the Library.

Karen Skullerud, ext. 161

Purpose and Content of the CAHSEE

The purpose of the CAHSEE is to ensure that students who graduate from high school can demonstrate grade-level competency in the state content standards for reading, writing, and mathematics.

Commencing with the 2003-04 school year, every graduating senior must pass the High School Exit Examination in order to receive a high school diploma from a California public school. In spring 2003, all students currently in grade 10 will be required to take the CAHSEE for the first time.

For those students who have previously taken the CAHSEE and have not yet passed, there will be opportunities to retake one or both parts of the exam on September 17, 18, and 19, 2002, and January 14, 15, and 16, 2003. It is recommended that students who have not completed Algebra 1C wait until the January administration dates to take the mathematics portion of the exam.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact Al Love, Assistant Principal, at (619) 644-1940 ext. 125.

Home Football Game Snack Bar Volunteers Needed

If you would like to work in the snack bar, either home or visitor side, during home JV and/or varsity football games, please e-mail lhamann@bsweb.com, or call Lisa Hamann @ 466-7230.

Thank You!

Yes, You Can Buy Friendship

The Helix Library is continuing its quest for a newer, improved place for students to research and study. Donations collected right now will help us complete the Checkout Counter area. If you would like to help, send your donation check to the Helix Library. All amounts will be very much appreciated. Our goal to complete the project is \$4,000. Thank you for your interest. Karen Skullerud, Librarian.

Parent's Name _____ Donation Amount _____

Student's Name _____