

Dear Parents,

02/19/08

I hope you have enjoyed this long President's Day weekend. We are now slightly past the mid-point of our 3rd-marking period. Progress reports (oral grades) were given out during February 4th and February 8th to all students. Any student struggling with their classes, having earned a "D" or below had parent notifications mailed home. This is a proactive step to help inform parents that their child may need to spend extra time studying for their classes.

One of the exciting events we have begun this second semester is a partnership with the Volunteer Center of Santa Rosa, in bringing community members with expertise in English, Social Studies, Science and Math to tutor students daily from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend these tutoring sessions to help ensure their classroom success. Water and snacks are provided for all who attend. The Volunteer Center has worked very hard to gather these adult community members who willingly give of their time to come to our campus Monday through Thursday. Please remind your child that these tutoring services are available to them, at no cost, and many teachers offer extra-credit for attending.

Our new website is up and running and updated, almost daily. Our new website is www.santarosahighschool.net. Please visit often and keep informed of our activities, both on and off the athletic fields.

My next Fireside Chat will be this coming Wednesday, February 20th at 6:30 pm in our high school library. This is a forum where staff, students, parents, and community members attend and have an opportunity to ask questions of myself regarding school policies, activities, events or anything else that comes to mind. There is no written agenda. Please remember this is not the time to delve into personal matters concerning individual situations. I will have my calendar present and could make appointments later to meet with you privately during school hours. The following is a list of dates and times for future Fireside Chats:

February 20th @ 6:30 pm in the high school library
March 5th @ 6:30 pm in the high school library (moved up, due to Spring Break)
April 16th @ 6:30 pm in the high school library
May 21st @ 6:30 pm in the high school library (last one for the 2007-2008 school year)

Sophomore parents, thank you encouraging your child(ren) to attend the mandated CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) on February 5th and 6th. This is a mandatory exam to take and pass, in order to receive a high school diploma. Those students who missed will have one last opportunity to take this test on March 11th and March 12th. Sophomore students only have one opportunity to pass this exam during their Sophomore year.

Junior parents who have children who have not yet passed the CAHSEE will have another opportunity to take and pass this exam on March 11th and March 12th. Junior students have up to three attempts their Junior year to pass the CAHSEE.

Senior parents who have children who have not yet passed the CAHSEE will have another opportunity to take and pass this exam on March 11th and March 12th. They will also have another opportunity to take and pass this exam prior to graduation, on April 6th and April 7th. The only problem is waiting for the State of California to grade the April administration. It usually takes 6 to 8 weeks to get results and may result in getting results after commencement activities. Therefore seniors who take the March 11th and 12th administration of the CAHSEE may not get these results back until May. They will be encouraged to take the April administration of the CAHSEE to be sure they have every opportunity to pass.

Class registration is presently occurring with students meeting our counselors and reviewing classes for next year. Juniors recently finished meeting with counselors and Sophomores will begin meeting with their

counselors on February 26th. Freshman will begin meeting with counselors on March 10th to determine their schedule for next year.

Congratulations to our girls fall sports teams. Santa Rosa High School was presented with the Elmer Brown Fall Sportsmanship award this past Friday evening. Elmer Brown was long time teacher, coach and mentor for Santa Rosa High School students and a past NCS (North Coast Section) commissioner. He passed away last summer, and will be remembered always for his dedication to the youth of our city and state. It is an honor for Santa Rosa High School to win such an award, especially since Mr. Elmer Brown was a Panther for so many years. Mr. Jake Fitzpatrick, SRHS girls Athletic Director, accepted the award on behalf of Santa Rosa High School. Congratulations to all of our athletes throughout this year for their dedication and sportsmanship they have shown throughout their seasons. This award singles out Fall athletic teams through a combination of scores based on winning records, individual student academic achievement, and athletic director voting. We will proudly display the banner in our halls for the remaining portion of the school year.

Our school board would like input regarding **Project Achieve**. This has been an ongoing action plan for Santa Rosa City Schools since 1997. The plan has been updated to reflect the needs of students, the direction of the district, the mandates of the federal government, and those of the state accountability system. Most importantly, it builds on district strengths, professional training, data analysis, collaboration, and communication to raise student achievement for all students. As you review the plan, you will note that it covers all grade levels from Kindergarten to Adult, considering students who are in different places in the academic continuum from those who need support to those who are advanced.

Project Achieve contains five major goals under which SRCS operates, as it has since 1997. The goals are:

- Increase Student Achievement
- Ensure Safe Schools
- Develop Exemplary Staff
- Improve Communication and Community Involvement
- Maximize Resources

Please go to the following website where you may make comments that are forwarded directly to our Board of Education. <http://www.srcs.k12.ca.us/news/200708ProjectAchievePlan.pdf>

Additionally our School Board would like your input on proposed changes to Board Policy 5126. You may view this by visiting our district web page at www.srcs.k12.ca.us and click on the link found in the middle of the page titled, **Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 5126: High School Graduation Requirements**.

Both of these items are important feed back items, as our School Board Members serve our community and they would like to hear from you to know how to best meet the needs of our students now, and into the future.

I am looking to adjust and improve this “e-news” letter to parents, staff, students and our community by posting these letters on our school webpage in the near future. This will eliminate my having to input hundreds of separate e-mail addresses and making mistakes along the way. This will also allow an archive to be built so you would be able to review past “e-news” letters. Having these “e-news” letters posted on our website would also increase the likelihood of more parents, students, staff and community members being able to review, ask questions and/or comment upon activities and events happening on campus. I hope to have this up and underway sometime before the end of the school year.

Upcoming Dates:

February 20th – Fireside Chat @ 6:30 pm in High School Library

March 1st – Bilingual Parent University (see attached flyer)
March 2nd - Deadline for filing the FAFASA and GPA Verification allowing you to apply for Federal grants and Cal Grants for some colleges.

Thank you and have a great week. If you have suggestions and/or comments regarding this “e-news” letter, please forward your reply to me. I will respond to all e-mails.

Sincerely,

James Goddard
SRHS Principal
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GO PANTHERS!!