

# Dragon News

## Message from the Principal



January 2016

### Happy New Year Dragon Families!

I am pleased to provide this inaugural principal's newsletter to help foster increased parent communication. The new year brings innovations in technology and continues implementation of best practices with Common Core. We are focusing on a safe school environment for all, and engaging all students in learning. I continue to be grateful for caring staff, supportive parents and incredible students. My very best to you in 2016! - Kathleen Hawing, Principal

#### **Dates to Remember (January and February)**

- Almost Maine Drama Production – Jan. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31
- Rising Sophomore Night – Feb. 4
- Coffee with the Principal - Feb. 5
- Booster Crab Feed, Veteran's Hall – Feb. 6
- Non-Student Day – Professional Development (PD) for Teachers – Feb. 12
- Presidents' Holiday (no school) - Feb. 15
- Incoming Family Night – Feb. 25
- Non-Student Day - PD for Teachers – Feb. 29

## Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS) Program

**Sonoma Valley High School welcomes back Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS) Program.** PLUS is a universal school-wide program which targets the general student body to help promote positive school culture, connectedness and inclusion. PLUS student forums and activities build student leadership and promote connection, communication, relations and participation to help students feel safe, a sense of belonging, motivation and resilience. Part of PLUS provides a data collection system to administer surveys to gather data and identify the social norms, trends and critical issues impacting students and help us work towards our goals of **promoting positive school climate and greater student engagement.** The first staff training and student forum took place in November with additional training and student forums the last week of January facilitated by John Vandenberg, the founder of PLUS.

## Awesome PLUS Students



## Emergency Buckets and More!



## Emergency Preparedness at SVHS

*Many thanks to students and staff who helped organize materials and fill the emergency buckets for individual classrooms. We are well on our way to completing Phase 1 of acquiring emergency supplies. Buckets have been placed in visible, easily accessible areas in classrooms and ready for evacuation in case of emergency. Phase 1 (2015-2016): classroom buckets filled w/ emergency supplies, drinking water supply, school supply inventory, drills and training. Phase 2 (2016-2107): Complete the second ½ of classroom buckets, acquisition of general supplies, ongoing training. We continue to prioritize ensuring a **safe school environment**.*

## Smarter Balanced Assessments

**What are interim SBA?** From mid-January through mid-February, SVHS students will be participating in Interim Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA). This is both an exercise in formative assessment as well as in practice and logistics in preparation for the Summative SBA scheduled for April, 2016. The English Literacy Interim SBA is a teacher-created performance task (PT) that parallels the style and objective of the actual SBA performance task. This PT will be used as a benchmark exam and will be graded by teachers using a calibrated rubric. It will be administered to 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in Living Skills/Geography, World History or US History class. The **Mathematics Interim SBA will be administered towards the end of the testing window** and will consist of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Block created by the testing agency. Students in grades 9, 10 and 11 will all be taking an interim assessment in math.

## Pre-Scheduling for 2016-2017

Counselors will begin making presentations and pre-scheduling students for the upcoming year, 2016-2017. (9<sup>th</sup> - Feb. 24, 10<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 27 and 11<sup>th</sup> - Feb. 3) Students will bring home information, a scheduling sheet and parents will also be notified via Global Connect.

## Technology in the News

**Technology Updates for SVHS. 1) Cabling upgrades to increase bandwidth** in the M building, G building and Library were completed over the Winter Break with the J building to be completed in January. Cabling for all other buildings will happen over the Spring Break and/or summer 2016. **2) Eight Chromebook carts will be arriving shortly** on campus as a precursor to one-to-one distribution and will be placed to help facilitate Smarter Balanced Assessments and to allow for increased use of technology as an instructional tool in the classroom. **3) The SVUSD District Technology Plan** draft will be reviewed by educators this spring.

## New Furniture in the Works



### College Class Available

**SRJC will be offering a class at SVHS** which will be both CSU transferable and applicable for a SRJC certificate. **Web Development (CS50A)** will be Mondays from 4-7. The 3-unit (10 high school credit) course is **free to high school students**. Students have priority, but enrollment is now open to the community. Please continue to encourage your students to take advantage of this incredible opportunity. Students should go to the College & Career Center if interested. **week of January 25.**

**Furniture Pilot Update.** The pilot timeline has been extended to allow for greater utilization of furniture recently installed, gathering of additional feedback, greater participation and to garner evidence of wear and tear. The four pilot rooms (H8, M4, J5, K3) and a new “demonstration room” (K4) will receive additional supplemental items as needed. In particular, a look at the role and use of technology will be brought to light as a part of creating flexible classroom environments for 21st Century classrooms.

**Piloting furniture and creating new learning environments include considering:**

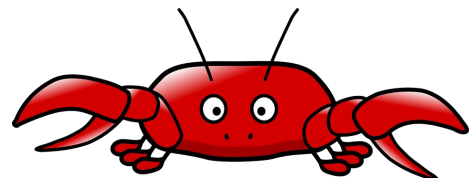
- **The new Common Core curriculum calls for greater student collaboration/discussion across academic subjects.**
- **Moving to a more student-centered, project-oriented learning model; and, to facilitate this type of learning, classroom environments which are adaptable and dynamic.**

Currently, the focus is on general instructional classrooms in H, K, J, G and F buildings. Specialty classrooms, offices and general use areas will follow the initial piloting.

### Attendance Counts

**Student Attendance.** The average monthly attendance for SVHS has not fallen below 95% since the start of the school year. Attendance is the single most significant indicator of student success. Thank you to students and parents alike for making an effort to be at school every day.

Crab has been secured! The **Booster Crab Feed** will be on **Saturday, February 6** from 5:00-11:00 p.m. at the **Veteran’s Hall**. A few tickets are still available, but the event will sell out so don’t delay. Join us and support athletics and extracurricular activities at SVHS. [Click here For tickets](#), or go to the **SVHS website**. **Thank you Boosters!**





## New Laws - AB329, SB695, SB277

Governor Jerry Brown signed into law as of January 1, 2016 **AB 329 which requires HIV Instruction and Sexual Health Instruction for all students in Grades 7-12.** (Previously only HIV prevention was required and any additional instruction only needed to be medically accurate and objective.) In addition **SB 695 was signed that requires instruction on affirmative consent for sex** ("Yes means yes") and a health class is required to graduate. This content is currently covered in freshman Living Skills. For a 2:45 minute video on this legislation, go to <https://twitter.com/edsources/status/671848286148558848>

### **AND**

**"Under a new law known as SB 277, beginning January 1, 2016, exemptions based on personal and religious beliefs will no longer be an option for the vaccines that are currently required for entry into child care or school in California.** Most families will not be affected by the new law because their children have received all required vaccinations. Personal and religious beliefs exemptions on file for a child already attending child care or school will remain valid until the child reaches the next immunization checkpoint at kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten) or 7th grade. For current preschoolers and 6th graders who have exemptions, school nurses will contact families to advise them of steps that must be completed before the next school year. For more information about SB 277, please see the Frequently Asked Questions available at: <http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/sb277faq/>. For more information about school immunization requirements and resources, please visit the California Department of Public Health's website at [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org), or contact your local health department or county office of education." (from District letter by Nikarre Redcoff, Director of Student Services)

## Thank you to SVHS

A very kind **thank-you letter was received from Middletown High School.** Part of the funding that was collected for disaster relief in the fall was given directly to the high school. "Dear Sonoma Valley School – As the principal of Middletown High school I would like to say "Thank You" for the support you have offered to our school. In times of tragedy and loss, those who put the needs of others in front of their own should be commended. We currently have 90 students and 14 staff members at MHS that lost their homes. I can assure you that your donation of \$500 for the students of MHS was and will be used to help ease their burden. In a world of fast-paced lives, the thought of so many individuals and organizations taking the time to help us in our time of need is quite overwhelming. We work every day to teach our students that "adversity makes you a stronger person", and "as long as we are standing we will never give up". Again, from the staff and the students at Middletown High School, I say Thank you! Bill Roderick, Principal"

"The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others."

– Albert Schweitzer

Why is it that to is pronounced two, but when you have the word toto it's toetoe not twotwo which is tutu?

## Go Dragons!

