

BALBOA HIGH SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER

September 2006

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear Balboa High School Parents and Guardians,

I would like to welcome all new and returning Balboa families. The beginning of the academic year is an exciting and energizing time for all of us. Before you get settled into your routines for the year, I thought it would be useful to encourage you to think about what you need to do to accomplish your academic goals this year.

Our statewide progress has exceeded the growth of any other SFUSD High School and we have grown close to 250 API points over the past 5 years, *averaging* 50 points each year. That is virtually *unheard of* and *steady growth*.

The staff will do its best to assist our students to improve academically and mature socially this year. Please be an active part of that process by volunteering and/or attending school meetings and functions.

I look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

Principal Patricia James Gray

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR "PLAY FIGHTING" AT BAL!

Per district policy, students using or attempting to use force upon another person, which is not in self-defense, may be referred for suspension or expulsion. Additionally, at Balboa High School, students engaged in any form of PLAY FIGHTING, WRESTLING, SHADOW BOXING, OR PHYSICAL TYPES OF "HORSE PLAY" may also be referred for a FIVE-DAY SUSPENSION per Principal Gray. The safety and security of our students is paramount, and any form of menace will not be tolerated. Thank you for your support of these district and school policies.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back To School Night will be September 28, 2006, 6:30-8:00P.M. It is imperative that you attend Back To School Night. Some of you may think because your child is in high school, it is no longer important to attend these meetings, but this is the crucial time in your child's life for you to advocate and help to make important decisions for your child. This is the perfect time to ask teachers questions and find out the expectations of the teacher and your child. Your attendance at Back to School Night is essential.

RETURN EMERGENCY CARD AND LUNCH FORM

Please note: In case of an **EMERGENCY**, we will keep your child at school until a parent/guardian picks him/her up. It is important that you fill out the emergency card correctly and return it to school as soon as possible.

It is very **IMPORTANT** to fill out the lunch forms and return them to school. Although your child may not qualify for a FREE or REDUCED lunch, you still should fill out at least part of the form. The families that are certain they do not qualify for FREE or REDUCED lunch, just write your child's name, school and "**NOT INTERESTED**" across the top of form. Returned lunch forms will definitely increase our budget allocation and school API (Academic Performance Index). Even if your child never goes into the caf at all, it still helps to have the form returned. **This year Reduced lunches are also FREE.**

GRAB N GO BREAKFAST

The Point of Sale swipe card system will enable Bal students to pick up a Grab n Go breakfast as they enter the front door (without having to go to the cafeteria at all). This system is being installed and should be operational by the beginning of October. Grab n Go has already begun in the cafeteria.

Our Grab n Go breakfast program has won a Victory Against Hunger Award from the Congressional Hunger Center in D.C. You can read background on this at <http://tinyurl.com/k28w7>.

CAUTION TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

When parents/guardians visit our school they should remember our policy not to wear red or blue in a gang-like fashion. There have been a couple of incidents where parents/guardians came to school wearing red/blue with the appearance of gang affiliation. Parents/guardians: be mindful that sometimes your child will emulate your behavior. Please remember safety is paramount at Balboa.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Tutoring and library access has already begun. The After School program begins on September 11th. In the weeks that follow students will be notified of additional academic, recreational and enrichment programs that will become part of the After School Program. Programs in the planning stage are: auto shop, film class, music, yoga, dance and computer art. After school tutoring is in Room 210 on Tue/Thur 3:30-4:30. Library Access/Tutoring on Tue/Thur 3:30-4:30. Library Tutoring on Wed 1:00-3:00pm (beginning in October) Scholarship and Social skills = Successful Youth (S.A.S.S.Y.) is a girls group – starts September 19, Tue/Thur 3:30-5:30 in room 103.

STUDENT EDITORIAL

I am Juliana Lee and I'm a student at Balboa High School. In case you are unaware, the JROTC program within the San Francisco Unified School District maybe eliminated. The JROTC receives funding from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) which happens to have a policy of "Don't ask, don't tell," biased against Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender people. We would like to remind you, that the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy does not apply to the JROTC, its instructors or students. The Regulations that govern JROTC prohibits any discrimination based on race, creed, national origin, or sexual orientation. The mission of the JROTC is to motivate young people to become better citizens. The JROTC does not recruit for the U.S. Army. This program is designed to teach high school students the high value of accomplishment, responsibility, citizenship and teamwork, yet at the same time motivates them in having self esteem, self discipline. The JROTC program has been in the San Francisco Unified School District since 1918 and has served thousands of students over the past 90 years. It's appearing that the School board will consider the resolution eliminating the JROTC program in the next

couple of months. The Student Association and many of the students at Bal are requesting your support of the JROTC program to prevent the Board of Education from eliminating the JROTC program for all San Francisco schools. Please call the School Board and tell them we need JROTC. The phone number is 241-6000. Thank You for your support. Juliana

WORDS FROM PTSA PRESIDENT

The PTSA is seeking parents and students for ideas and leadership to help improve the educational quality of the school. Our goal is to work towards the academic success of every student.

The PTSA is a great forum for keeping up to date with events at Balboa and a way to get involved in school decision-making. Some Balboa funding sources are being cut and the PTSA will be looking to help keep alive many of the programs that have helped the Balboa student community these last few years.

I look forward to seeing parents and students at our meetings. For those who cannot attend, please email me at ageist@yahoo.com if you can participate in this year's PTSA. Alan Geist - Balboa PTSA President

BALBOA HOT LINE 273-5810

The "HOT LINE" is available for ANONYMOUS reporting of weapons, graffiti, potential fights, threats, truancy or any item that might affect the safety and welfare of the students and staff at Balboa. We will not tolerate bullies.

CALENDAR REMINDER

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Picture Day

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Back to School Night

Monday, October 9, 2006

Indigenous People's Day – No School

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

ELAC Meeting 5:30- 6:15 P.M. in room 103

PTSA Meeting 6:15-7:15 P.M. in library

SSC Meeting – 7:15 – 8:15 P.M. in room 112

WE NEED CHAPERONES FOR FIELD TRIPS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS. PLEASE CALL PARENT CENTER 469-4090 ext. 3133, DONNA SMITH.

