

BALBOA HIGH SCHOOL **PARENT NEWSLETTER**

February 2006

Shared Decision-Making At Balboa

The Balboa community is invited to participate in the shared decision making process by attending a series of three School Site Council Town Hall meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to review and revise the Balboa School Site Academic Plan. The academic plan allocates the school budget and will determine school wide priorities for the 2005-2006 school year.

The San Francisco Unified School District directs each school to craft a plan to meet the individual needs of students and the greater school community. Prior to the first Town Hall meeting, members of the School Site Council will attend a special training session sponsored by SFUSD to help guide the planning process.

TOWN HALL MEETING #1 will be held on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the library. Dinner will be provided.

Please join us for this very important meeting. Your input is very important, and your active participation is highly encouraged. We look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

GATE: Gifted and Talented Program

Is your teen gifted or talented? Would you like him/her to be included in Balboa's GATE Program? Students can be gifted or talented in many different ways. Some are academic high achievers, others are artistic and still others are great leaders. We want to identify all our gifted students to ensure that they receive the challenging work they need to develop their full potential. If you would like your teen to be evaluated for our GATE Program, please contact our GATE Coordinator.

Bettie Holaday can be reached by email: bettie_holaday@lycos.com or by calling the main desk to leave a message 415-469-4090.

10th Graders MUST Take Exit Exam

All 10th graders must take the High School Exit Exam. To receive a diploma in the 12th grade students must pass this test. The test will be given on February 7th and 8th, 2006. On Tuesday, Feb. 7th the English test will be given. On Wednesday, Feb. 8th the Math test will be given. All students are expected to come to school on both days.

SATURSDAY SCHOOL

There is HELP to PASS EXIT EXAM! English and Math classes will be offered. Students have the option of taking both subjects. If students feel they need more help in one subject than the other, they can take that subject both periods. 1st period 9:00-10:25 A.M.; 2nd period 10:35-12:00 P.M.

Fundraising Event

Balboa High School Class of 2007 – needs your HELP! Please invite all of your friends and family to dine with us and Chevys will donate 15% of the proceeds to our Class of 2007. Save this date: Thursday, February 9, 2006, 4:00-10:00 P.M. Chevy's Fresh Mex, Stonestown Galleria 3251, 20th Avenue.

Free Tax Preparation

There is a special program for low-income families. They will prepare you Federal and State taxes Free. To locate the centers in your neighborhood, please call 1-800-358-8832 or visit www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org.

After School Program

Please encourage students to engage in after school activities we offer several classes and more to come in the second semester.

SOME “NEW” AND EXCITING CHANGES:

- **LIBRARY** will be open every morning 7:30-8:05 A.M. and Thursdays 3:30-5:30 P.M.
- **SPANISH-SPEAKING STUDENTS** – Every Monday after school (3:35-5:30 P.M.) Franco Cuba will help Spanish-speaking students in the library. All students are welcome.
- **PACT TUTORING** – Wednesday (3 out of 4 per month) after school (1:00-3:00 P.M.) Mikka and Natasha of PACT will help in the library. All students are welcome.
- **MATH TUTORING** – Every Monday and Thursday after school (3:30-4:30 P.M.) Rm. 210.
- **BREAK DANCING** – 3:30-4:30 P.M. – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; Erik Smith from San Francisco City College will be the instructor.
- **MOVIE CLUB** – 3:30-6:00 P.M. in room 18, Friday only – see Sarah Brant
- **AUTOMOTIVE CLUB** – Tuesday 3:30-5:00 P.M., Wednesday 1:00-3:00, Thursday 3:30-6:00 P.M. with Brother Grice.

Please explain to your child how important it is to participate in after school activities. After school activities promotes a healthy environment for your child.

AACE Upward Bound

Currently AACE Upward Bound is looking for 9th and 10th graders that can benefit from their program. It's a pre-college program that targets low-income students and students who will be the first in their family to attend college. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Donna Smith, parent liaison 469-4090 ext. 3133.

Tea and Coffee With Principal – What's It All About?

We would like to shine a “spotlight” on our monthly coffee and tea with our principal and teachers. Last year we had a lot of fun talking with the principal and finding out new things about Balboa. It is also good to meet some of the teachers who stop by to meet the parents/guardians. At these gatherings you will have an opportunity to meet other parents, laugh, talk and share ideas. The meetings are very relaxed, our principal is open to suggestions, the people are friendly and the food is enjoyable. Here is a list of the dates and times for our next four meetings: February 17, 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.; March 18, 1:00-3:00 P.M.; April 14, 9:00-11:00 A.M.; May 19, 11:00A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Summer Programs and Youth Employment Opportunities

S.F. Youth Works 202-7911 www.sfgov.org

Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program (MYEEP)202-7903 www.sfgov.org

Enterprise for High School Students 896-0909

Brava Theater Center 641-7657 www.brava.org

Juma Ventures 247-6580 www.jumaventures.org

UC Berkeley-Academic Talent Development Program (510) 642-8308 www.atdp.berkeley.edu

Calendar Reminder

Tuesday, February 7, 2006

High School Exit Exam – English

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

High School Exit Exam – Math

Town Hall Meeting 6:00 -7:00 P.M. in library

Friday, February 17, 2006 - 11:00 - 1:00 P.M.

Coffee and Tea with the Principal in Room 103

Monday, February 20, 2006

President's Day Observed – No School

Is Your Child Using Drugs or Alcohol?

Is your child irritable or experiencing mood swings? Sometimes, have you noticed your child's eyes slightly reddish? Have you seen objects that look like small pipes or sticks? Do you know what your child is buying with their money? Does your child stay in his/her bedroom for long periods of time with the door closed? These could be signs of drug or alcohol use. Please come to learn more about this problem. We will have a very good informative guest speaker, Ms. Maureen McCarthy, from our clinic at Balboa to speak to us at our next PTSA meeting, February 8, 2006, 6:15 –7:15 P.M. in the library.

Developing Minds – Video Series **....Learning to Relate to Others**

This video explores social cognition or children's ability to relate to others – including problems that many children face with this issue. The video shows strategies that parents and teachers can use to help children become more socially successful.

Upcoming 2005-2006 series:

February 8 – Mastering the Challenge of Reading

March 8 – Getting Thoughts on Paper

April 12 – Producing and Communicating Ideas

May 3 – Thinking with Numbers

All programs at the San Francisco Public Library are free. Main library, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

www.sfpl.org