

NEWSLETTER Volume 1, Issue 5 (December 2000)

North Hollywood High School Highly Gifted Magnet

11 Years of Academic Excellence

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

* NO PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL in December.

We will meet in March.

December 22 * Reverse Minimum Day; School starts at 10:33 and ends at 3:33.

December 23 – * School is closed

January 1

January 4 * Intersession Begins

January 8 * AP Intersession begins

January 10 * Bay Area Math League Round 2

January 22 * HGM Health class begins

January 27 * Academic Decathlon Part 1

February 3 * Academic Decathlon Part 2

February 13 * AHSME 1:30 –3:30 in cafeteria

February 17 * Science Bowl competition

February 24 * Science Olympiad competition

Holiday Potluck Dinner

On December 1, 2000, the HGM held its annual potluck. The event was a great opportunity to eat delicious morsels, help raise funds for the parent group, and for the Houses to perform skits. Interestingly, the skits revolved around “roasting” the teachers. Interspersed between the skits, the Friends held a raffle, which raised almost \$400. All-in-all, it was a good time of fellowship for the HGM family.

Coordinator's Corner

One activity I enjoy doing is golfing. On a recent visit to the links, one of my golf balls found the left side of the fairway, which was lined with maple trees. As I was marveling the location of my ball (not really), I looked up and noticed the colorful leaves, which reminded me of the phrase, “The trees are changing their colors.” Actually, the correct phrase would be that the trees are revealing their true colors. Chlorophyll, the pigment that gives leaves their green color, chemically breaks down easier than the other pigments during the fall season. The present theory is that it is an environmental factor; but which one (amount of light, darkness, temperature, or a combination thereof) remains to be seen. But enough with the science lesson...

Congratulations!



The women of the HGM did very well in athletic events this year. Natalie Stein won the City Cross-country individual title, placed 8th in the State competition, and 25th in the National competition.

The girls' tennis team won the City Invitational Division.



Like the maple leaves holding chlorophyll, humans can hold a good façade most of the time. However, stresses, like the holiday seasons (or trees blocking a view to the putting green), can reveal our true side. Sometimes, what is revealed isn't our most flattering side. Learning how to cope with adversities requires practice and patience. Such life skills are important to attain, but often do not come easily.

Parents who stay home will face a new challenge with Intersession; that is, trying to keep a highly gifted teenager preoccupied during this period. In this newsletter, several parents have consolidated a variety of activities that HGM students can do during Intersession. If a student takes a course and wants high school credit, please remember the following:

- A concurrent enrollment form must be on file in the College Office with prior authorization for each class (HGM students must have the coordinator's signature as well).
- Courses must be transferable to a 4-year college.
- The maximum number of college courses for high school credit is 4 per year unless pre-authorized by the APSCS.
- All courses must be taken through an accredited college or university.
- On-line courses must have some face-to-face component.

I hope everyone will have a relaxing and productive Intersession. Iris and I will be in the office for the most part during the break. If you don't find me on campus, I'll probably be on a golf course, hitting the ball out of the tree line.



Can't we all get along?

-Varun Dadabhoy

In the month of November, Ms. Schiller's 12th grade Economics class was transformed into a

storm that raged between Union Workers and the Management. The class took part in a simulation designed to explore the difficult process of unionization, a topic that holds much relevance for any student of Economics. This simulation was funded and run by UTLA and other California labor-related organizations.

The students were given roles to play as Management, Workers, Union Representatives and the NLRB Representative. The students were given an in-depth description of the situation and the feelings surrounding each group's state of mind. The Management and Union Representatives were allowed a brief introduction and stated their respective viewpoints. Then the brewing rivalry between Management and Union was unleashed in the following debates that showed the passion that the two groups held for the future of the Get-Well Community Hospital. The following rounds of discussions, vaguely reminiscent of the presidential debates, cleared misconceptions that the students themselves held about the dynamics of the Union, their power and limitations, as well as the Management's. After closing arguments, the workers cast their votes, yay or nay. The results varied for each class, a yes to join the union in the first class and a draw in the second, but the lesson was learned. Then, a startling secret was revealed: there were Management spies placed with Workers. Workers had conspired with Management to sway the Workers' attitude about their Union, but did this change the way that Workers thought about Management? The general consensus was that it had little effect, if any.

So what was the lesson learned anyhow? As in the real world, there was no clear-cut moral of this story. Both sides had felt they were correct in their thinking. The NLRB Representative had enlightened many with the fair contract laws and proper ways to conduct negotiations. In the end there was not a correct or righteous side, only victors and losers.

Thank You!

The Parents of the HGM continually help in all facets of campus life. We would like to recognize the following:

- ❖ Gavin Schiff for being able to obtain C++ programs for the programming students at manufacturer's cost.
- ❖ Lorie Stromberg for organizing the HGM Potluck, and fighting the 405 traffic to get to the event!
- ❖ Richard Narita for assembling the storage unit in Ms. Spadafora's classroom.
- ❖ The Hauser family (their daughter was a former HGM student) for the holiday treats.
- ❖ Eunice Y. Kim's family for the Thanksgiving treats for the entire NHHS staff.
- ❖ A Gateway desktop computer with the Athlon processor was purchased by Friends and is in the HGM office for student use.
- ❖ Racey Cohn, Marilyn Morrison, Brain Small, and Dan Lester who helped compile ideas for Intersession.
- ❖ Thank you Friends for offering to help out with Intersession Review sessions.

Intersession Ideas

Need something to do during Intersession? Here are some ideas:



1. Volunteering

There are many elementary schools and teen volunteer programs that could use assistance. Thank you, Parent Dan Lester!

Dr. Barnett, CSF sponsor, says performing volunteer hours during Intersession can count towards 15 hours community service (non-profit organization) for the Spring semester.

The North Hollywood Recreation Center on 11430 Chandler Blvd, is looking for teenagers to do volunteer work after school hours. You will learn office skills, how to

scorekeep games, how to plan classes, and leading low organized games. The benefits are: receive a letter of recommendation of hours completed and possible part time work. For more information, ask for Mary or Juan at: 818-763-7651.

Schools interested in HGM Volunteers during Intersession 2001:

Carpenter Elementary

Contact: Shawn Muncio – 761-4363

Volunteering Opportunities available:

Helping teachers in classroom/P.E. yard

Colfax Elementary (maybe)

Contact: Carol Landy – 761-5115

Dixie Canyon Elementary

Contact: Elaine Duross – 784-6823

Volunteering Opportunities: Help in

P.E. area, afterschool tutoring, computer coordinator, TAing in classrooms.

Portola Middle School

Contact: Ms. Smith – 342-6173

Volunteering Opportunities: Portola

Tutoring Program (Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:50-3:50 P.M., Saturdays 8:30-11:30 A.M.)

Riverside Elementary

Contact: Errol Taft – 990-4525

Volunteering Opportunities: Classroom assistants, Science Fair judges, play area aides, & after-school homework tutors.

Toluca Lake Elementary

Contact: Estella Rollins

Volunteering Opportunities: Tutoring in Homework Club, Help in classrooms and w/supervision

2. Taking courses

Students can take courses for credit or non-credit at a local college/ university. Their spring semester is from February 5 – June 9, 2001. They are located on 5800 Fulton Avenue. Valley Glen, CA 91401-4096. Their telephone number is: 818-947-2600.

For course offering information, visit their web site at: www.lavalleycollege.com

Pierce College is from January 2 to February 3, 2001. They are located on 6201 Winnetka Avenue. Woodland Hills, CA 9131. Their telephone number is: 818-719-6404 and their web site address is: www.piercecollege.com.

North Hollywood High School is offering remedial Intersession courses. The Highly Gifted Magnet will offer a Health class (for credit) and AP review classes (noncredit). Please remember:

- o School buses will not be running during Intersession.
- o Health class is for credit, so attendance will be consistent with normal Intersession policies.
- o The AP review classes are not required, but recommended
- o Students need their ID at all times.
- o When classes end, students cannot remain on campus unsupervised.
- o Students will have access to the cafeteria if their class end

If there is a year-round high school near your home, you can take a course there.

3. Group activities

If there is an interest, parents can organize field trips to: concerts, theatres, hiking, sporting events, etc. Consult the HGM roster for phone numbers.

4. Intersession Reading

The English teachers will distribute reading assignments to their students.

Mark Your Calendar!

The next Parent Advisory Council meeting is Thursday, March 17, 2001.

Please Contribute to Friends!



Friends of the HGM is an invaluable ally to the magnet.

They assist in purchasing needed materials for teachers and for paying many activities and events the HGM does for the students.

Thus far, the Friends' fundraising this year has received \$12600. If you haven't given a donation yet, we encourage you to do so. Contact Lorie Stromberg, Racey Cohn, or Ronit Weiss for more information.

Be Informed via E-mail



In the last newsletter, we sent out the HGM roster. We also would like to start communicating via e-mail. If you would like to receive up-to-the-moment information and

have an e-mail account, please let us know. We promise the e-mail will only be used for HGM purposes. No spamming!



Snapshots of the HGM potluck

