



Smoke Signals

October, 2008

Kathy Yamane, Editor

From the Desk of David Vannasdall

AHS Class of 2009
has
35
National Merit
Semifinalists
and
80
Commended
Students

Advanced Placement
(AP)

Arcadia High School
continues to be
extremely proud of its
Advanced Placement
program. Currently
AP examinations
are offered in
35
subject areas.

This summer, amongst many international players, I was invited to the Far East for a Global Meeting of Stars. While it was not the Olympics, I was honored with my invitation to the International Conference for High School Principals in Taipei, Taiwan. It was a privilege to meet with principals from around the world and to know that Arcadia High School is an internationally recognized and renown magnet for education.



At Arcadia High School, we always look forward to welcoming our new families and students to the school. We have so much to offer and your students only help to make us stronger.

While a 9th grade counselor in a large comprehensive high school, I learned to appreciate and validate the challenges associated with transitioning from middle school. Each student leaves middle school with a different experience, and enters high school with different expectations, compounded by various levels of anxiety and fear. The same could be said about us, as parents. Our experiences are very different with each child, and that can be both a blessing and a curse. Our goal is to work with you, as partners, to ensure our kids make a smooth transition to high school.

I invite you to visit AHS to see first-hand the facilities and the programs available to your child. Current students and staff will be available to speak with you and answer any questions you might have. Preview Day for Eighth grade parents will be Saturday, November 15th, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Arcadia High. We look forward to working with you as we prepare for the arrival of our Class of 2013.

Apache Preview Day

You are cordially invited to attend our fifth annual
Apache Preview Day
Saturday, November 15, 2008
2-4 p.m.
Meet in the North Gym
(2-3 p.m. Campus Tours, rain or shine)

I was an Eighth Grader....Last Year.

High school. To you, these words may seem frightening or incredibly exciting. If you have an older sibling, you may have a vague idea of what it's like at the high school. If not, Arcadia High School might be a huge, mysterious campus to you – a realm of the unknown. But no worries, this article will answer a few of your questions about the high school and put your mind to ease.

A few days before high school started, the majority of the incoming freshmen were a tad nervous. "What are my teachers going to be like? Are the seniors truly as mean as the stories say? What if I get lost? What if I fall into the toilet and the fire department has to come get me out and the entire school finds out what a loser I am?" These are some of the questions that run through the typical incoming freshman's mind. Okay, perhaps most people weren't worrying about odd mishaps in the restroom, but a lot of unanswered questions were filling up the soon-to-be ninth grader's heads; and the word "high school" began to sound a bit scary.

Luckily, my first few weeks at Arcadia High School have proven me wrong. High school being scary... no way! While the crowdedness of the high school is amazing and intimidating, I've discovered that all my teachers are kind and have helped me acclimate to A.H.S. I've met plenty of new people, many of whom have become my friends.

While there is considerably more homework than I was assigned in middle school, by keeping organized and on task, I've had no problem finishing it and *still* having time for fun. It was great to finally find out that high school isn't just about

studying (although that will always remain important), it's also about getting involved in various activities at the school and meeting a ton of awesome people at the same time.

So are the upperclassmen evil monsters that bully freshmen for their own pleasure? You will be surprised to find that most of the older students at Arcadia High School are actually nice, wonderful people! In fact, you'll meet some great seniors a few weeks before you even begin school – your Big Sisters and Big Brothers, who will be your senior friends to help you out with anything you may need. You may have heard rumors that seniors throw vulnerable, unsuspecting freshmen into the trashcans and other bizarre rituals like that. These silly myths are not true at all; so it's fine, you can check "avoiding trash cans with tall people around them" off your to-do list. Something you may want to remember is to keep your backpack, books, and other belongings nearby at all times. It is true that if you leave your stuff lying around, someone will most likely steal it. And there is no fun in losing your things, especially if it was something important.

The key things to keep in mind when you are attending Arcadia High School are: always keep up with your work (your middle school days are over), get plenty of sleep (you will need it), keep close to your friends and family, and last but not least –get involved with the high school! Even though the freshmen haven't been here long, the majority of them have figured out what a great place it is to learn, grow, and thrive.

Recently elected Freshman Class President,

Amy Wang



"Front Door"

Arcadia High School

"There are over 60
clubs at AHS,
ranging from large
service clubs to
culture clubs and
clubs that cover a
variety of interests"



Our Nationally Recognized Apache Marching Band will be performing at the Gator Bowl this year.

How will my child transition to High School?

Welcome to the Arcadia High School community. We, as parents of current high school students, understand the anxiety of choosing the best high school for your student. We have a transition plan for your family! First, it starts with the Apache Preview day on Saturday, November 15th from 2-4p.m. There will be tours of the campus and members of many campus organizations.

You will learn about all the wonderful opportunities that our students have at AHS. Later in the fall, David Vannasdall, principal, will conduct a meeting with you at the Middle Schools. A parent panel will join in so that you can have the perspective of parents with

students involved in a variety of activities. Of course, there will be times for questions and answers. In January or February, we will host Parent-to-Parent meetings. An experienced parent panel will present general information about the transition to high school in an informal setting followed by questions and answers. In February, the counselors with the bridge counselors will go out to each middle school and conduct assemblies covering all the programming options at the High School. The parents will attend their own programming assembly in the AHS North Gym at 7p.m., April 16th, 2009. You and your child

will then have about a week to review the Curriculum Guide and choose classes for their 9th grade year. The counselors will meet individually with each 8th grade student at their middle school. The student will bring their final class selection sheet home for your approval.

Along the way, we will send more information in these **'Smoke Signals' newsletters**. We will be providing extra information to the AHS Liaisons as well. The liaisons are:

Dana -Sara Ho 448-1667
First Ave. -Kathy Yamane 574-1858
Foothills -Lisa Lucas 355-0025

Questions??
Jessica Louie-836-8963

Where did the Class of 2008 Go?

Air Force	Johns Hopkins	Tulane
American University	Juniata	UC Berkeley
Amherst	Lehigh	UC Davis
Azusa Pacific University	Loyola Marymount	UC Irvine
Arizona State University	Loyola Chicago	UCLA
Babson	Macalester	UC Merced
Barnard	Marymount	UC Riverside
Boston College	Miami U	UC Santa Barbara
Biola	MIT	UC Santa Cruz
Brandeis	Northern Arizona	UC San Diego
Brown	North Eastern	U Arizona
Boston University	North Western	U Chicago
BYU	Notre Dame	U Michigan
Cal Lutheran	NYU	U Notre Dame
Cal Poly Pomona/SLO	Oberlin	U of Miami
Cal States - all campuses	Occidental	U of San Diego
Cal Tech	Oregon State	U Penn
Calvin	Oxford	U Portland
Carleton	University of the Pacific	U Puget Sound
Carnegie Mellon	Parsons	U Redlands
Case Western	Penn State	U Rochester
Catholic University	Pepperdine	U SF
Chapman	Pitzer	U Texas
Claremont McKenna	Point Loma	U Va
Colby-Sawyer	Pomona	U Wash
Colgate	Princeton	UNC Chapel Hill
College of Atlantic	Purdue	Union
Columbia	Redlands	URochester
Concordia	Reed	USC
Cornell	Rhode Island	USC BMD
Dartmouth	Rice	USD
Davidson	Rose Hulman Institute	USF
Drexel	Rensselaer Polytechnic	Valparaiso
Duke	Rutgers	Vanderbilt
Emerson	Santa Clara	Vassar
Emory	Sarah Lawrence	Wake Forest
Eugene Lang	Scripps	Wash U St Louis
Fordham	Smith	Wellesley
George Mason	Soka	Wesleyan
George Washington	Southern Utah	Whitman
Georgetown	Spelman	Whitworth
Grinnell	St. John's	Williams
Harvard	Stanford	William & Mary
Harvey Mudd	Stevens Inst	Yale
Haverford	Swarthmore	
Hobart/WilliamSmith	Syracuse	
Howard	Temple	
Illinois Tech	Temple	
Indiana	Trinity	
	Tufts	

“There are more
than 9 Academic
Teams that vie for
National Recognition
here at
Arcadia High
School!”



“Science Center”

“Arcadia is ranked
261 out of 1200
public schools in the
United States”
according to
Newsweek magazine.

Calendar of Events for Incoming 9th Graders

October 2008

2 AHS PTSA Meeting – 7 p.m. – Arcadia City Council Chambers

3 Varsity Football Home Game (Hoover) – 7 p.m.

10 Varsity Football Homecoming Game (Glendale) – 7 p.m.

17 & 18 Pep Squad Haunted House 12 noon to Midnight

24 Varsity Football Home Game (Muir) – 7 p.m.

30 Fall Concert at PHS Auditorium – 7 – 9 p.m. (OR1, OR2, OR3, and MS)

November 2008

6 AHS PTSA Meeting – 7 p.m. – Arcadia City Council Chambers

14 Varsity Football Home Game (versus CV) – 7 p.m.

15 Fall Preview Day

18-22 Fall Drama Production 7 p.m.

22 Arcadia Festival of Bands

December 2008

4 AHS PTSA Meeting – 7 p.m. – Arcadia City Council Chambers

9 Winter Concert at Holly Avenue (OR1) – 7 – 9 p.m.

11 Holiday Concert , Pasadena High School (OR2, OR3) 7-9 p.m.

12 Friday Night Lites (FNL) Drama Production 7 p.m. in the Little Theater

January 2009

8 AHS PTSA Meeting – 7 p.m. – Arcadia City Council Chambers

17 Band Spaghetti Dinner – 4–10 p.m. (Cafeteria and North Gym)

February 2009

5 AHS PTSA Meeting – 7 p.m. – Arcadia City Council Chambers

26 & 27 Drama – Coffee House in the LT

March 2009

4 Orchestra Vertical Concert (OR3) – 7 p.m. – PHS

5 AHS PTSA Meeting – 7 p.m. – Arcadia City Council Chambers

10-11 CAHSEE (Exit exam)

26 Band Vertical Concert – 7 p.m.

April 2009

1 Spring Concert 7 p.m. – OR1, OR2, CB1, CB3 (North Gym)

2 AHS PTSA Meeting – 7 p.m. – Arcadia City Council Chambers

16 Incoming Freshmen Orientation Night – 7 p.m. – North gym

9-11 Arcadia Invitational Track Meet - AHS

29-5/2 Orchesis Show, 7 p.m., Little Theatre

May 2009

1-2 Orchesis Show, 7 p.m., Little Theatre

7 AHS PTSA Meeting, Volunteer Appreciation and Honorary Service Dinner – 6 p.m. – Location TBD

7-8 Drama Shakespeare Showcase – 7 p.m. in the Little Theater

9 Color Guard Spring Show 6-9 p.m.(North Gym)

19 Pops Concert – 7 p.m. (OR1, CB2, OR3)

20 Pops Concert – 7 p.m. (CB1, OR2, CB3)

June 2009

4 AHS PTSA Meeting – 7 p.m. – Arcadia City Council Chambers

August 2009

17 Freshman Orientation

21 Apache Days – Freshmen

23 – 28 Music Camp for Orchestra Band and Color Guard

24 Apache Days – Makeup: 9-9:45 Senior; 9:45-10:30 Junior, 10:30-11:15 Sophomore, 11:15-12 noon Freshmen