

PANTHER PRIDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 2009

Volume V Issue 3

Minimum Days

March 23rd
April 6th
April 21st
May 4th
May 18th

Spring Break

April 10th–20th
School Resumes on
Tuesday, April 21st

Panther Afternoons

April 1st
May 6th
June 3rd

Open House Night

Wednesday, April 1st
6:00–8:00

STAR Test Week

April 28th–May 1st

Senior Boards

May 18th

Final Exams

June 8th–10th

8th Grade Graduation

June 9th

12th Grade Graduation

June 11th

University

Preparatory School
2200 Eureka Way
Redding, CA 96001990
(5300 245-2790)

Principal's Corner... Erin Stuart

On February 27th a team of four Shasta County administrators came to U-Prep to assess our application to be a California Distinguished School. As I read over their comments (and their recommendation to the CA Department of Education that U-Prep be granted Distinguished School status), I reflected on the many opportunities our students have to participate in activities that foster positive interactions, help them connect to the school, and create a climate where healthy friendships can flourish. The Visiting Team was particularly impressed with our Advisory Program and its focus on building relationships between staff and students, as well as among the students themselves. Both the structure and the curriculum of Advisory in all grades supports students as they form friendships. Beyond our Advisory classes are other groups that help create our community.



- Mrs. M. Johnson and Miss Gulden manage the **Big Brothers/Big Sisters**, a group of high school sophomores and juniors who meet monthly with the 8th graders during tutorials. They have discussion topics that are relevant to students looking forward to high school. They also have social events outside of school. They went bowling earlier this month and are planning a get together at Oasis Fun Center soon.
- **Latin Tutoring Program**, under the direction of Mrs. Erickson, consists of advanced Latin student volunteers who meet with Latin I students during the tutorial period. They help them with homework as well as class assignments.
- Every year our counselors Mrs. Gatlin and Mr. Williams as well as Mrs. Malain train and work with the **Conflict Managers**, a group of high school students who have been taught to help students deal positively with conflict. They often work with the junior high students on interpersonal conflicts.
- **Link Crew** students are juniors and seniors who "adopt" a group of new ninth graders (even before school begins) and help them make a positive transition into high school. Throughout the year, these students and their advisor Mr. Cabral have put together several events for the freshmen such as orientation activities, the Homecoming Barbecue, and "Cookies and Cramming," to help students study for semester finals.
- A talented (and patient) group of sophomores and juniors are the students in the **Peer Mentoring** class. These students work with 6th and 7th graders to help them improve social and academic skills. Mrs. Malain trains the Peer Mentors in communication techniques, conflict management, leadership styles, team-building, and group dynamics.

Please plan to attend our **Open House on April 1st** (no fooling!); this is a great opportunity to visit staff, see student work, and look ahead to next year's classes. The Panther Parent Club will host a family barbecue (information included in this newsletter). I would also like to encourage you to attend the Educational Foundation's Auction/Dinner on April 25th at Riverview Country Club. This is the first year of an event that will allow the foundation to support U-Prep in a number of ways. The goals of the Educational Foundation include underwriting college and class trips, providing funds to support curriculum, and pursuing grants from other foundations. You should have received an invitation in the mail; if you didn't there are more available at the school office.

As always, I continue to be amazed, impressed, and encouraged by the actions of our students, the support of our parents, and the dedication of our Board and staff. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at Open House on April 1st.

Musical Spotlight: Nikole Knak

Nikole is nearing the end of her fifth year as a band student here at University Preparatory where she has played multiple instruments in multiple bands. It is not possible in most schools to spend that many years in a music program, but because U-Prep supports 6th through 12th grades, we are all very fortunate to still have her with us. Her instrument of choice is the Alto Sax, but she successfully doubles as a Tenor Sax player when she is needed. Additionally, Nikole is a highly accomplished soloist and has played numerous solos at our concerts and has competed in the various CMEA Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Just recently, Nikole performed at the Northern Section CMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival and earned an invitation to play at the State Festival in May. We wish her the best of luck and thank her for her countless hours of practice and dedication to our music program.

-Brad Fowers

Transportation Update

Applications to provide student transportation for the 2008-09 school year will be accepted through Friday, April 2, 2009.

Applications received after the deadline will not be processed and will be returned to the school site.

Due to the length of time required to process an application it is not efficient to receive applications after this date as approval would not be obtained until mid May.

Student transportation applications for the 2009-10 school year will be available in early May.

Boys Basketball 2008-2009

Varsity Boys

The varsity Boy's basketball team had a very successful season. The varsity team finished 3rd in the toughest Division 5 league in the Northern Section. In just their second season the Panthers did a great job competing at the varsity level and making it to the semifinals of the Northern Section Championships. Jason Carey, Spencer Kjos & Kyle Hamblin were selected as Tri-Cities All-League team members for their great play during league games. Jason Carey was selected to play in 2 post season All-Star Games as well. He played in the North Section All-Star Game March 22nd in Chico, Ca. & he will be playing in the Lions All-Star Game March 29th at Shasta College in Redding, Ca. Coach Combs has said this of the Panthers squad this year, "This group of players is the hardest working group of players we have had in the program so far. They are very deserving of all their accomplishments & they have set the foundation for seasons to come." The 2008-2009 the Panthers were led by Seniors Spencer Kjos, Jason Carey, Randy Reid, Chris Kofford, Alex Lee, Dustin Fisher, Kelly Crowley, & Juniors Brian Owens, Toby Burchner, Neil Verma, Kyle Hamblin, & Carson Hamblin.

Thanks for your dedication & support,

-- Coach Combs

The 2008-2009 **Lady Panther Basketball Team** had a record breaking season!

They began with an outstanding preseason competing against some of the top teams in the area then topped off league play as co-champions of the Tri-Cities League and finished post season play coming up just one point shy of the Division 5 section final game.

Earning All-League honors were Tisha Brusett, Kimmy Micheletti, and Andria Clagg. A big thank you to our 7 saucy seniors (Tisha, Christa, Celeste, April, Becca, Janette, and Lauren); we will miss you.

Returning next year for another run at the section title will be Andria Clagg, Kimmy Micheletti, Alex Walesch, Samantha Snyder, Cynthia Yee, Abrianna Griffith, and Katie Creekmore along with our new and upcoming Lady Panthers. Thanks for a great season!

Play Hard, Play Smart, Play Together,
Play with Confidence.

Want a yearbook?

Sign up on the waiting list in office!

Attention Parents of 8th Graders

There will be an 8th Grade Graduation Parent Meeting on Tuesday, April 7, at 5:30 pm in room 182 (Ms. Oberlander)

Attention: 2010 Seniors

Please contact Kennedy Photography (246-4682) to schedule a yearbook picture for next year. Don't delay! These photos are free if they are done before school starts next year.

AP Tests for 2009

Monday, May 4, 8:00 am	Government
Monday, May 4, 12:00 noon	French Lang
Wednesday, May 6, 8:00 am	Calculus
Thursday, May 7, 8:00 am	English Lit
Friday, May 8, 8:00 am	US History
Monday, May 11, 12:00 noon	Physics
Tuesday, May 12, 8:00 am	Chemistry Env. Science
Wednesday, May 13, 8:00 am	English Lang
Thursday, May 14, 8:00 am	World History
Thursday, May 14, 12:00 noon	Microeconomics

Riverfront Playhouse

Upcoming Spring Fundraising Events

Thursday, April 2, 2009

And Then There Were None...10 Little Indians

By Agatha Christie

Fundraiser for Yearbook/Journalism

Tickets will be \$20

Contact Mrs. Sarah Harris-Jepsen at
sharris@suhsd.net

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Steel Magnolias

By Robert Harling

Fundraiser for Interact Club

(Service Above Self)

Tickets will be \$20

Contact Mrs. Sally vonDachenhausen at
svond@suhsd.net

Interested in running? Throwing? Jumping? Making friends? Getting into shape? Having fun?

Come join Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Cabronne and the U-Prep Junior High Track team. This is a non-cut sport: all are welcome. Practices start on April 21st from 4—5:15. Our first meet is April 28th. For questions, please see Mrs. Johnson or e-mail her at majohnson@suhsd.net.

See you there!

MATHCOUNTS!

Wow! What a way to start a new club at U-Prep. It all started with about 18 students who regularly attended the 7:30 am MathCounts Club meetings in January. Thanks to the help of Mr. Raudman, Mrs. Nalley, and Ms. Oberlander, 16 students participated in the first annual U-Prep School Mathcounts Competition on Saturday, January 31. Our top 8 students progressed to the Regional Mathcounts event, hosted by CH2M Hill on February 12, where they earned a special award for being the highest scoring new school. In addition, Sean Riley received the award for the **3rd place** individual score (out of 80 students), with a score of 25 points. Our school team, Justin Lewis, Joel Garrison, Sean Riley and Logan Ryan had a team average of 22.75 points as individuals and answered 10 out of 10 questions correctly to become the **First Place Team!** They beat the second place team by ONE question! These boys earned the privilege of attending the Mathcounts State competition at the University of the Pacific on March 28. They are working diligently and we look forward to seeing them off to state competition. Meantime the full MathCounts club has resumed meeting on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am in Ms. Oberlander's room; **come join the math fun!**

Top Score: Nathan Hernandez

Top Eight Scores (Progressed to regional event):

Nathan Hernandez

Sean Riley

Logan Ryan

Joel Garrison

Justin Lewis

Maia Chin

Megan Hoffman

Elijah Plumb

Regional Attendees also included: Joban Gill and Tyler Younkens

A special thank you goes to Nadina Novenschi and Dianne Kirschman for supplying the students with snacks and drinks at the school competition.

Robotics Club

Robotics club is in full swing! We attended a special training in San Jose in early February and the students are in the process of applying their new skills. Tom Kisanuki generously volunteered to build our practice field, and we have put it to much use. Thank you, Mr. Kisanuki! Robotics club will be showing off their hard work at the Robotics competition on Saturday, March 28 in San Jose.

Panther Parent Club BBQ

April 1, 4:30-6:00 pm

Preceding U-Prep

OPEN HOUSE

Hamburger Meal \$6.00

Hotdog Meal \$5.00

All meals come with side, dessert and beverage!

All proceeds benefit 6th and 7th grade End of *This* Year Activities.

Panther Parent Club Needs Officers

Anyone Interested Please Attend

The April 2nd Meeting

At 4:00 pm in Room 101.

This will be the last call for Officers!

There will be no more PPC Funding for Panther Pesos, Middle School Fun Day, Teacher Appreciation Lunches, Safe and Sober Grad and so much more!

Please don't assume somebody else will step up to the plate.

PPC Needs You!

Career Day is an all day event for our 8th and 9th graders that will take place on May 5—it is designed to get your students excited about their futures in college and the work world. Students will hear a variety of speakers discussing various vocations as well as a panel of college students (our alumni) sharing their recent experiences. We will need several parent volunteers to greet speakers and give directions to rooms; please contact Shelley Paramo at 245-2767 or sparamo@suhsd.net if you are interested in volunteering. ***This will be a dress for business day for the whole school.*** Young men should wear nice slacks and button shirts and young ladies should wear skirts or slacks and blouses; this is also a chance for the community members that will be on campus to see U-Prep students at their finest.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND UPDATE

The Middle School team of Valerie Lindquist, Joanna Painter, Alyssa Stauffer, Joban Gill, and Megan Hoffman took first place in Problem 3 The Lost Labor of Heracles. The team competed against 9 other teams. (more than any other problem in any other division at the tournament). They had a long term problem score of 169.66 out of 200 and a style score of 40.66 out of 50. In the 4 years that I have been coaching I have not had a team score this high ever. These girls blew the audience away with their props and performance.

The High School team of Tariq Malik, Evan Lindquist, Nikole Knak, Shannon Hearney, Derek Yorton, McKenzie Hoffman, and Kevin Zhou-Wright took first place in Problem 5 Superstitions. This also team blew the judges and audience away. In addition to their first place finish in their problem, this team was awarded the Renatra Fusca award. This award is given to teams for extraordinary creativity and style. The team created a phantom dog and used wood, duct tape, bungee cords, and ping pong paddles to create stilts that made the phantom dog look like he was walking on dog legs. I have only seen this award given to one other team.

In addition to all of this, the OMER award was presented to Tariq Malik for his exceptional acting ability, and use of creative voices.

Below are the descriptions of both the awards this team received.

OMER's Award

OMER's Award is named for the Odyssey of the Mind raccoon mascot, OMER, in recognition of individuals or teams who demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship, exemplary behavior, or exceptional talent. Recipients of this award may be coaches, team members, parents, officials or anyone else that tournament officials or directors feel exhibit these traits. This award is not intended to reward creativity. Generally, a handful of these awards are given out at each competition.

Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award

The Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award represents the essence of the Odyssey of the Mind. It is presented to teams or individuals who exhibit exceptional creativity, either through some aspect of their problem solution, or an extraordinary idea beyond the problem solution. A successful problem solution is not a criterion for winning the award; rather, the award is a way to acknowledge and encourage creative thinking and risk-taking. Teams that earn this award at the state/province/country level are eligible to advance to world finals. The name comes from a type of insect *Renatra fusca* which can walk on water and served as the inspiration for a particularly creative, but unsuccessful, solution to a problem in the early days of the program. The next step is onto the state competition on April 4, 2009, in Brentwood, California.