

PANTHER PRIDE

July 2011

Volume VII Issue 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARENA DAY

August 8
7:30AM-2:00PM
Big Gym

SCHOOL STARTS

August 15

Back to School Night

August 30
6:00 PM

Soccer Camp

Incoming 8th–12th
Grades
July 25-29

Junior Soccer Camp

Incoming 2nd–7th
Grades
August 1-5

Volleyball Camp

Incoming 5th–8th
Grades
August 1-4

NEW BELL SCHEDULE

2011-2012

New Time Changes!

PARENT DRIVER APPLICATION FORMS

2011-2012

Available Now!

University
Preparatory School
2200 Eureka Way
Redding, CA
96001990
(530. 245-2790)
www.uprep.net

Superintendent/Principal's Corner... Erin Stuart

Advanced Placement at U-Prep: The Rest of the Story

In a relatively small and close community, it's typical for people to share their perspectives on local schools and programs. Recently several U-Prep parents have reported hearing that U-Prep's academic success is being exaggerated and that our Advanced Placement program lacks credibility. Although I believe that the quality of a school can be measured in many ways, I think the issue of academic excellence is worth considering. Below I discuss our philosophy and answer the question: "Why are you sending your child to U-Prep?"

Periodically I am reminded that, as the school community has grown, we need to retell the story of U-Prep: why we started the school and which principles guide us. Seven years after beginning the school and a few weeks after graduating our first class of 6th graders from high school is a good time to look back at our roots.

U-Prep was founded on a **patriotic principle**—the belief that all students deserve a chance to prepare for a college education. The leadership team which started U-Prep had over 100 years of combined teaching experience. All of us had felt the satisfaction of helping students succeed academically; all of us had seen the positive influence of a caring teacher. We wanted to provide more opportunities for students to connect—to the school, teachers, and each other. We also wanted to give younger students the preparation they needed for a rigorous high school curriculum; this became the basis for starting U-Prep with 6th grade. It was an ambitious dream and it included lengthening the school day, starting active and varied athletic and performing arts programs, and taking students on overnight trips to visit public and private colleges.

Today we offer Advanced Placement classes as well as college classes on our campus. What's unique about U-Prep is that every sophomore takes AP World History and continues in AP English and Social studies during the junior and senior years. We believe that the AP curriculum is the richest and most meaningful we can offer our students, so we teach it to all of them. We don't believe in tracking students by the ability level that they demonstrate as they enter high school, and we support the College Board's goal to have more students take AP tests because we know that the tests show evidence that students can handle college level work. Not being tracked hasn't hurt our students' ability to be accepted to and successful at some of the most prestigious colleges in the United States.

Other schools have a different approach: identifying gifted students (9th grade or earlier) and selecting those with high skills to form an elite group of high achieving AP test takers. Our model leaves room for students to develop the skills, motivation, and maturity to become high achieving students. It is our hope that a student, who begins at U-Prep with average skills, will eventually take many AP tests by the time he or she graduates. U-Prep is the opposite of an elitist program. We believe that providing a positive environment with talented and caring teachers who hold students to high standards while providing academic support will give many more students the chance to become AP students, to develop the appropriate work ethic, and to be ready for college and life.

Continued on page 2

Advanced Placement at U-Prep: The Rest of the Story continued

Lately, I've seen some statistics comparing our 2010 AP passing rate (70%) to those of other local schools. The table below came to me by way of people passing on information to U-Prep parents who want to understand the significance and validity of the information. As you know, data can be represented in a variety of ways and may not represent all of the relevant information.

School	# of different exam subjects	# of AP Students	# of tests	Pass Rate
Shasta	17	194	395	82%
Foothill	8	87	106	71%
Enterprise	16	89	160	64%
U-Prep	14	83	171	69%

So let's look at these statistics. The **# of different AP Exam subjects** shows how many different exams the students at each school took during May 2010. I have to assume that **# of AP Students** refers to the number of students taking a test, not the number of students enrolled in AP classes. The **# of tests** refers to how many tests were given, not how many students took those tests. And the **Pass Rate** refers to the percentage of students who scored a 3 or higher on a test. U-Prep actually has a 70% pass rate if one includes the 3 SUHSD students who took AP Environmental Science at U-Prep from a U-Prep teacher (AP tests scores are credited to the student's school of record, not to another school where the class was held). Keeping in mind that all U-Prep students in 10th - 12th grade are in AP classes, the percentage of students who took a test would be an interesting statistic to examine; in our case 36% of our 10th-12th graders took AP tests in 2010. At U-Prep we think that having 70% of the students pass an AP test is commendable; we also think that having 36% of our 10th - 12th graders take an AP exam reflects our inclusive approach to education. We're proud that everyone has a chance to be an AP student at U-Prep. And we predict that both of these numbers will increase as more of our high school students have also graduated from our junior high. By the way, the pass rate on the 2010 AP exams was 66.2% in Shasta County and 58.3% in California.

There are so many ways to evaluate a school's performance. In the past we have compared our Academic Performance Index (API) ranking to other schools as those are widely disseminated through media and all of our local schools perform well above the state average. We could choose to demonstrate that we have the highest state testing scores in our area by publishing charts showing the results on the California Content Standard Tests or CAHSEE. We could compare various national rankings (*Newsweek*, *US News & World Report*) or the California Similar Schools' measures or state rankings, or the qualifications required to be a CA Distinguished School. But what would be the point? The bottom line is that all of the high schools in this area have successes to celebrate. Each school can be proud of its accomplishments and allow those achievements to stand alone, and it isn't necessary (or good form) to diminish the successes of other schools. Below are some of the academic accomplishments we are proud of at U-Prep. We are equally proud of the fine work of our student athletes, musicians, actors, singers, dancers, and community volunteers.

- 890 API
- CA state rank of 10
- 2009 California Distinguished School
- *Newsweek* rank of 492 (2010)
- 2010 Silver Medal School (*US News & World Report*)
- 6 Year Accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Certified Charter (California Charter Schools Association)
- 99% CAHSEE Passing rate
- 99% Graduation rate
- 80% of our 2011 graduates met the a-g requirements for admission to UC
- 54% of our 2011 grads are matriculating to a 4 year college or university; 45% are starting out at community colleges, and 1 student has joined the Air Force
- Course offerings include 14 AP classes, 3 levels of Strings classes, 6 levels of Dance classes, 4 modern world languages (French, Russian, Spanish, and Chinese), Latin I-V, and two levels of both AP Physics and AP Calculus
- Advanced classes available to junior high students in mathematics and world languages

*Since I wrote this article, *Newsweek* came out with its list of the top 500 public high schools in the United States. U-Prep was ranked number 163. Each school is scored in six areas: graduation rate (25%), college matriculation (25%), AP tests taken per graduate (**25%**), average SAT/ACT scores (10%), average AP/IB/AICE scores (10%), and AP courses offered (5%). I've highlighted one significant percentage in bold type; it's interesting that *Newsweek* rates the number of AP tests taken as highly as the graduation or college matriculation rate. Clearly, having more students in AP classes taking the exams is the best way to prepare more students for college.



The Big Move: Changes at the Campus.....by Kathy Malain



RSA's New Site opens...

Nearly three years after breaking ground Redding School of the Arts will move onto their new campus this summer. RSA's 400+ students will be housed in a "green" two-story building that promotes human and environmental health. The school's art and music rooms as well as an outdoor performance area are key features of the new facility. We wish the staff and students of RSA all the best in their new home.

As RSA moves out of the Shasta Learning Center (SLC), 20 U-Prep teachers will be moving into new rooms. We are excited to have this opportunity to design learning spaces that will accommodate collaboration for students and teachers. For example, Core (Language Arts/Social Studies) classes will be in grade level groups, close to their science and math teachers as well. All of the World Language teachers will be in one hall and most of the high school classes will be in the East Wing or upstairs in the West Wing. The portables we have previously used will be vacated for North State Independence High School (NSIHS), a program who shared SLC with us in our first year. In fact, when we started U-Prep in 2004-05 we shared the building with NSIHS, the Shasta Adult School and RSA.

North State Independence High School moves in...

NSIHS is an accredited alternative school of choice designed to meet individual needs of students. Students are offered flexibility with their schedules while being held to the same high academic standards as the comprehensive high schools. NSIHS allows co-enrollment in the community college, ROP classes, on-line courses, and at the comprehensive sites on a space available basis. The NSIHS counselor designs an Individualized Graduation Plan for each student. NSIHS students, in addition to meeting once a week with their primary instructor, may also attend small group classes as required by their Individualized Graduation Plan. NSIHS has an active student government class that meets weekly. The student government class is affiliated with the Action Grant, a SUHSD grant that has an anti-drug focus. Students are involved with co-curricular activities such as service projects, field trips, and school dances. In fact, NSIHS has held many of its school dances at SLC since the school started in 2003-04.

Medical Independent Study, a program for students who not able to attend school regularly, and Cal-SAFE, a program for pregnant and parenting students, are also offered through NSIHS. During the 2005-2006 school year NSIHS moved to its own campus at 590 Mary Street, Redding. This August the program will be returning to the SLC campus, utilizing the back entrance to the campus to access rooms 401, 402, 403, 404, 300, 301, and 303.

NSIHS has 264 students, many of whom attend school for only about an hour a week to meet with their teacher. The 30 or so students who eat lunch on campus will have their own lunch period, so there will be little opportunity for our students to interface, although North State students will be welcome to attend our Shasta College classes or a language or AP class. They have nine teachers, a counselor and a principal (Guy Malain—my husband), who will be on campus. If you attend a North State graduation, you will occasionally see students who attended U-Prep before transferring to NSIHS. These students leave U-Prep and other comprehensive sites because they are credit deficient for various reasons, they have an illness that precludes them from coming to school, they have a parent who is ill and needs their assistance at home, or they are shooting a film on location in the Midwest (a reference to a previous U-Prep student and North State grad who now attends Dartmouth College in New Hampshire), among other reasons. It is an independent study high school—not a Community or Continuation School. (Students with behavior problems are sent to continuation or community schools.) The equivalent to NSIHS would be Shasta Secondary Home School or Stellar Charter High School, two other independent study charter schools in our area. For more information about NSIHS please visit their website at <http://nsihs.suhsd.net/>.

This summer...

U-Prep teachers have packed and labeled their boxes for moving later in June; at the same time RSA teachers have packed up 12+ years of books, supplies and memories to be relocated (temporarily) in the Hoosier Gym in preparation for their final move to the new site in August. Meanwhile, the folks from Sprint Turf are tearing up and replacing the turf field as the SUHSD maintenance crew and technology department ready the prior U-Prep classrooms for the arrival of NSIHS in August. The planning and mustering of resources to make all of this happen in one summer has been phenomenal. It's a tribute to the student-centered philosophy of the staffs and leadership of SUHSD, RSA, NSIHS, and U-Prep that the moves are going so smoothly. And the changes will continue with U-Prep expanding its office space, most likely in September, when RSA's move is complete. Our athletic and ASB secretaries as well as Mr. Carlson will be moving across the hall into the former RSA office. It is and will continue to be a busy time for the people at SLC. All of us—the staffs and students at U-Prep, RSA, and NSIHS—are looking forward to these exciting changes.



COLLEGE NOTES from U-Prep's Counseling Center ...

What is the A-G Completion Rate?

Schools determine A-G completion rates by the number of graduating seniors who take classes that meet the UC and CSU Admission Requirements and finish with a C better in those classes. The A-G Admission Requirements are a sequence of high school courses required by the UC and CSU as appropriate for fulfilling the minimum eligibility requirements for admission. The courses required also represent the minimum level of academic preparation students ought to achieve in high school to undertake university level work. SUHSD reports A-G completion rates on C-BEDS, which is made available to the public.

The "A-G" requirements can be summarized as follows:

- (a) **History / Social Science** – Two years, including one year of world history, cultures, and historical geography and one year of us history or one-half year of us history and one-half year of civics or American government.
- (b) **English** – Four years of college preparatory English that include frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature.
- (c) **Mathematics** – Three years of college preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry.
- (d) **Laboratory Science** – Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of these three disciplines: biology, chemistry, and physics.
- (e) **Language Other Than English** – Two years of the same language other than English.
- (f) **Visual & Performing Arts** – One year, including dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.
- (g) **College Preparatory Elective** – One year (two semesters), chosen from additional "a-f" courses beyond those used to satisfy the requirements above, or courses that have been approved solely for use as "g" electives.

For questions, please contact high school counselor, Mrs. Gatlin, at 245-2713 or tgatlin@suhsd.net

U-Prep's 2011 Seniors have been accepted to the following schools:

Brown University • Butte College • Cal Poly San Luis Obispo • Colorado Christian University
Columbia University • Concordia University • CSU Chico • CSU East Bay • CSU Humboldt
CSU Long Beach • CSU Monterey Bay • CSU Northridge • CSU Sacramento • CSU San Diego
CSU San Francisco • CSU San Jose • CSU Sonoma • Drexel University • Duke University
Full Sail University • Gonzaga University • Goucher College • Harvard • Hillsdale College
Hofstra University • Le Cordon Bleu • Lubbock Christian College • Marshall University
Mary Baldwin College • Montana State University • Monterey Peninsula College • MSU Bozeman
Northern Arizona University • Oregon State University • Pacific University • Pepperdine University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute • Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology • Santa Clara University
Shasta College • Sierra College • Simpson University • Southern Oregon State University
St. Mary's College • Stanford University • Stephens College • Stony Brook University • UC Berkeley
UC Davis • UC Irvine UC Los Angeles • UC Merced • UC Riverside • UC San Diego • UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz • University of Miami • University of Portland • University of San Diego
University of San Francisco • University of Southern California • University of the Pacific
UTI Sacramento • Westminster College • Willamette University • Yale University

PARENTS: PLEASE PICK UP ARENA DAY PACKETS PRIOR TO ARENA DAY!

Arena Packets are available for pick up in the front office, beginning Aug 1st.

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 8/1-8/4 8:00-3:00 and Friday 8/5 8:00-12:00.



ARENA DAY - August 8th 7:30 am – 2:00 pm



Arena Day is an "Open House" style event for students and parents to meet U-Prep staff, teachers, coaches, and classmates. Students and parents have the opportunity to purchase ASB Cards, PE Clothes, Yearbooks, Spirit Wear, Scrip, and sign-up for athletic teams, committees and special events. Lifetouch will be taking student pictures beginning at 8:30 am in the Activity Gym. Don't forget to return your 2011-2012 paperwork and pick-up your class schedule at Arena Day!



Please remember to have your child immunized with the required Tdap vaccination ASAP to meet the new requirement for next school year 2011-2012!

Remember to bring in the proof of vaccination form the healthcare provider and turn in to the office or the health office as soon after vaccination as possible so that we can get it recorded in our system. Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter.

**Janet Domke, RN BSN
District Nurse, SUHSD**

IMPORTANT.....PLEASE READ!

If you have not already turned in proof of Tdap for your student, please bring a copy to turn in on Arena Day. Class schedules will not be given until proof is received. No shots! No Class Schedule!



Save the Date!

**U-Prep's Annual Auction
March 24, 2012**

Please purchase tickets early.
This was a sold event last year.

Auction proceeds support the educational needs, physical improvements and program enhancements of U-Prep.



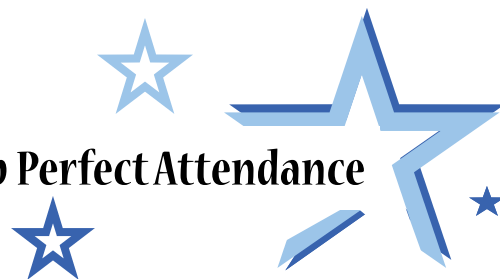
**Parent Driver Application
Forms (2011 – 2012)**

Parents interested in transporting U-Prep students during the 2011-12 school year, must complete and turn in a parent driver application to the school office for approval. Forms may be downloaded from the U-Prep website at uprep.net.

Thank you!

Thanks to our generous and supportive U-Prep parents, our first year *Perfect Attendance Program* was a huge success! A total of \$1130 was donated to the program to purchase gift cards that were awarded to our eligible students.

U-Prep Perfect Attendance



At the end of each quarter, all the names of qualifying students were entered into a drawing.

1st Quarter Perfect Attendance

There were 324 eligible students that qualified for *Perfect Attendance* for the 1st quarter. \$280 in Scrip gift certificates were awarded to following students at the October Panther Assembly:

6th Grade - Riley Bokavich, Alexis Brown, Blake Hibbard
7th Grade - Trevor Harder, Alexandria Lindsey, Bryan Lusher
8th Grade - Nicholas Lowney, Sophia Miller, Sarah Murphy
9th Grade - Jackson Kisanuki, Terren Matioli, Emily Reynolds
10th Grade - Bond Isheim, Joseph Rowden-Bell, Scott Yorton
11th Grade - Robert Livolsi, Claire Pfeiffer, Tyler Schoefer
12th Grade - Andria Clagg, Sannon Hearnay, Makenzee Ruley

2nd Quarter Perfect Attendance

There were 235 eligible students that qualified for *Perfect Attendance* for the 2nd quarter. \$215 in Scrip gift certificates were awarded to following students at the January Panther Assembly:

6th Grade – Samuel Loughran-Smith, Jonathan Giles, Emily Davis
7th Grade – Beau Forest, Cindy Cifuentes, Garrett Buck
8th Grade – Paige Hawes, Xinyu Hartshorn, Christian Hoefer
9th Grade – Owen Fitzgerald, Madison Browning, Alyssa Stauffer
10th Grade – Max Rollefson, Colleen Murphy, Sarah Tran
11th Grade – Alayna Padilla, Heather Hansen, Zechariah Deckert
12th Grade – Andria Clagg, Michael Ward, McKenzie Hoffman

3rd Quarter Perfect Attendance

There were 141 eligible students that qualified for *Perfect Attendance* for the 3rd quarter. \$195 in Scrip gift certificates were awarded to following students at the March Panther Assembly:

6th Grade - Sydney Spliethof, Jesmer Garrison, Ryan Schuyler, Madison Heath, Samuel Elwood
7th Grade - Garrett Buck, Elaina Astin, Mason Young, Bailey Gurell, Kelly Moore
8th Grade - Justin Saetern, Ashlee Gilmette, Mateo Seal, Alexandra Reed, Sara Nune, Wyatt Smithson
9th Grade - Megan Gambino, Madison Zimmerman, Michael Gama, Joe Richmond, Helen Mino-Faukner, Justin Scott
10th Grade - Megan Lindsey, Johnathon Boster, Christopher Scafani, John Marcuz, Joseph Rowden-Bell, James Barber
11th Grade - Mason Dion, Matthew Powers, Amanda Lundsford, Heather McCallum, Linus Ryan, Lyndsey Brown
12th Grade - Andria Clagg, Cody Anderson

4th Quarter Perfect Attendance

There were 177 eligible students that qualified for *Perfect Attendance* for the 4th quarter. The remaining \$440 in Perfect Attendance gift cards was awarded to students. The following student's names were drawn and were mailed an announcement and a gift card.

6th Grade - Joven Longee, Forrest Moore, Katherine Woodworth, Kutter Wright, Payton Adams
7th Grade - Luke Clements, Jessica Leach, David Shattuck, Beau Forest
8th Grade - Chandler Brittain, Brandon Seda, Mikaela Bredemann, Paige Hawes
9th Grade - Skyler Bistarkey, Gaby Cervantes, Erin Howard, Benjamin Alden
10th Grade - Kylie Bushey, Garrett Stevenson, Johnathon Boster, Ida Dhanuka
11th Grade - Brandon Culmer, Zechariah Deckert, Freeman Odurukwe
12th Grade - Amy Shearing, Michael Hampton, Landon Bruno

★ Two students receive special recognition for *Perfect Attendance* for the entire year and were also rewarded a gift card: Congratulations Colleen Murphy and Patrick Pham!

