



University Preparatory School

PANTHER PRIDE

MARCH 2014
VOLUME X, ISSUE 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Early Release Days

March 24th
April 7th
May 5th
May 19th

School Holidays/Breaks

Spring Break
April 14th -18th
April 21st
Students Return on
April 22nd
Memorial Day
May 26th

Special Bell Schedules

Final Exam Schedule
May 27th–29th

Panther Afternoons

March 28th
April 25th

Performances

Arsenic and Old Lace
March 13th–16th
March 22nd

Activities

Career Day
May 2nd

Westward Way Day
May 27th

Medieval Day
May 23rd

Ancient Civilization Day
May 23rd

Events

8th Grade Graduation
May 30th 4:00 pm

12th Grade Graduation
May 30th 8:00 pm

Superintendent/Principal's Corner. . . Kathy Malain

Happy New Year! As usual, the first semester has flown by. We are in the process of completing a new WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Self-Study, the process by which our high school classes are accredited (and therefore accepted by colleges and Universities). We appreciate all of the community members, parents, and students who have joined our staff in these discussions and helped make plans for our next six year of success!

College and Career

This is the time of year when our seniors are busily applying to colleges and seeking scholarships. Congratulations to **Logan Ryan** who scored a perfect 36 on his ACT test and has been nominated for a Presidential Award. Congratulations to **Wes Hartmann**, who is a National Merit Finalist—the only one from the North State Area this year. Congratulations to **Owen Fitzgerald** who was recognized by Rotary West as U-Prep's **Honor to Youth** recipient. All three of these young men are co-valedictorians in their senior class (having maintained a 4.0 unweighted GPA throughout high school) and all three were interviewed for possible acceptance to Harvard. We are so proud of them!

New Faces and New Places

Shelley Paramo accepted a new job with the Gateway District IT department that promises to afford her more autonomy and room for her creativity. We will miss her, but we wish her well! **Elizabeth Trayford** accepted the position of my **Administrative Secretary**; a well-deserved promotion for her. We have recently hired a new **Attendance Clerk** whose name is **Sarah Kendall**. She is currently working as a clerk for the Shasta County Court system, but her heart is in the school system (she worked in the Boulder Creek School office while she was attending college). She is delighted to be joining our U-Prep Family and top of the state Office team. She told me that she felt the positive energy when she came to interview and knew that U-Prep was a place she could picture herself for a long time. Our own **Robyn Johnson**, our substitute for Karen Bird, has accepted a new position at U-Prep as our **Athletic Secretary**. She will be creating a program for us to organize and streamline the whole athletic process—collecting and keeping the data for every athlete (clearance card, physical, etc.) for every sport. She will coordinate schedules and cancellations for games with other schools' Athletic Directors and coaches, and a myriad other things that go on behind the scenes in our athletic arena.

Karen Bird will be returning from maternity leave to resume teaching sixth grade math on March 3-- (and that is when Robyn will switch jobs to make the transition for her students as simple as possible).

App Attack Award

Each year College Options sponsors a competition to see how many seniors fill out a college application. We had 100% fill out college applications, so we won for our school division and will receive \$300. Congratulations to our seniors!

University Preparatory School 2200 Eureka Way Redding, CA 96001

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Some Highlights of U-Prep High School:

As you and your friends consider which high school will best prepare your current 8th grader for college and his/her future, here are some of the highlights of U-Prep's High School:

All AP and Honors curriculum

5 World Languages to choose from: Latin, Russian,

Mandarin/Chinese, French and Spanish (taught in a way that they actually learn to speak--TPRS)

College trips (to visit *Berkeley, Davis, St. Mary's, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Cruz, Stanford, Sonoma State, S.F. University, UC Santa Clara, Sac State, CSU Chico*, etc.)

Freshman 3-day trip to Patrick's Point, visit to Humboldt University

Sophomore 3-day trip to Ashland, Oregon with visit to Southern Oregon University and Shakespearean Festival (seeing two plays)

Highest API (Academic Performance Index) in the County - 910 indicating that our students excel academically

Full Visual and Performing Arts Program

Competitive Dance Team

Science Bowl Winners 2012 – 2013

Complete Sports Program

National Clearinghouse Report 2013:

College going rate for students who graduated from U-Prep

2008 – 92%

2009 – 89%

2010 – 90%

2011 – 95%

(Many others joined the Armed Forces) The general college-going rate in Redding is about 21% according to *Reach Higher Shasta* statistics for the county

Lots of clubs - World Languages, Christian Club, Interact, Link Crew, Student Government, CSF, Robotics, Math and Science, Odyssey of the Mind, Mock Trial Club, Latin Club, Art Club, Pre-Med Club, Mountain Biking Club, *Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Peer Mentoring*

Electives – Video Production, Music Production, Drafting, Sustainable Living, Symphonic Orchestra, 5 levels of Art including AP Studio Art:2D, 6 levels of Dance, Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band, Choraliers, Concert Choir, 2 levels of Drama, Computer Applications, Web Design, Yearbook, Journalism, Peer Mentoring, Guitar I & II, Drum Corp, Intermediate Strings

Counseling Corner-

Students that took the PSAT and PLAN don't forget to register for My College Quickstart at www.collegeboard.org/quickstart. To register for a free membership to My College Quickstart students must use the student code on the lower portion of the PSAT Score Report.

Juniors participated in "Junior Counseling," where we reviewed their progress towards graduation and meeting the A-G requirements, explored college enrollment requirements, and answered questions regarding the college enrollment process.

Junior students who are planning to attend a four year university/college are required to take the SAT or ACT as part of the application enrollment process. I encourage students to take the SAT or ACT or both during the spring of their junior year. For additional online information about these tests, registration test sites, and test dates, please go to:

<http://www.actstudent.org/>

<http://www.collegeboard.org/>

March is off to a great start....

2014-15 course registration is completed. I met with the future 9th-12th grade students individually to review course requests. It was a great way to connect with students, check on graduation requirements, and register students early. By doing this we will hopefully have schedule conflicts taken care of BEFORE Summer break!

Seniors be on the lookout for the second spring letter that will be sent out the beginning of May. Graduation is right around the corner so stay informed with upcoming deadlines and events!

Thank you

Ms. Haworth

High School Counselor

Why Common Core?

Common Core State Standards have been adopted by 48 states including California; students will begin testing with the new math and English standards in 2015. While some standards have changed for both English and math, it is in math that most restructuring is taking place with new courses that emphasize depth in math skill development. The mission statement of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Initiative is that *"the CCSS provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers."*

Every school in the state is in the process of shifting to Common Core State Standards, including U-Prep. Common Core is an adjustment for all, particularly in math. Math teachers have traditionally utilized direct instruction, with students copying down problems and formulas. With Common Core there is a shift from students passively listening to having to engage in and deliberate about the math. It is a big change, but with some practice, students will be able to think, reason about, and correctly apply math to real world problems—a skill that will be a huge benefit to being successful in high school, college and future careers.

Our feedback from a number of our students is that they are thoroughly enjoying the curriculum. They like that they are able to write in the text and make notes as needed. They love being able to communicate with each other and share ideas. They feel like it is easier than last year in a way because they are more active participants and the Common Core math curriculum makes connections to the real world that makes sense to them. We held a **Parent University** first quarter to inform parents about Common Core and to let them see how it works in a math classroom. We appreciate all of the parents who came to learn about Common Core, and all the parents and students who are supporting us during this transition—change is hard, but it will get easier.

Smarter Balanced Testing Transition in California State Testing

This year U-Prep is one of many in the country participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test in the spring. Schools in 22 states will administer the online assessment in mathematics and/or English language arts/literacy starting this March. Our testing window will begin in April and go through to late May for the computerized assessments.

The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing our new Common Core academic standards and preparing all students for success in college and careers. When schools use the assessment next school year, they will provide an academic checkup by measuring real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving. In addition, they will provide information during the year to give teachers and parents a better picture of where students are succeeding and where they need help. This practice run of the assessment will be used to evaluate the testing software, ensure the quality of test questions, and evaluate the effectiveness of the test administration and training materials. It also provides teachers and students at our school an opportunity to preview the types of questions that will be part of the Smarter Balanced assessments.

All 6-8 students will participate in the computerized Smarter Balanced Field Test. In grades 9 and 10 certain students will be selected by the California Department of Education to participate in either the math or English Language Arts test. All students in grades 8 and 10 will also take a paper/pencil STAR test in science. Grade 11 students will take the STAR tests for math and English Language Arts as well as the Smarter Balanced computerized tests. STAR testing will occur on April 29th and 30th.

If you would like more information about Smarter Balanced, please visit the Smarter Balanced website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact **Michele O'Leary, Assistant Principal, at maoleary@suhsd.net or 245-2790 ext. 16521.**

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

First Quarter of 2013-2014 Perfect Attendance Awards

U-Prep had 381 eligible students that qualified for Perfect Attendance for the 1st quarter. The names of all eligible students were divided by grade and entered into a drawing for the 1st Quarter Perfect Attendance prizes. With much thanks and appreciation to our U-Prep parents, \$215.00 in Scrip gift cards were donated and were awarded to our eligible students who met the criteria for Perfect Attendance.

The following student's names were drawn and received a prize at the October 25th, 2012 Panther Afternoon;

6th Grade-Kamryn Burgess, Ashley Rose, Gigi Elizarraras
7th Grade-Stephen Yoshida, Hannah Drechsel, Theresa Johnson
8th Grade-Miles McMillan, Eric Oliver, Miranda Armstrong
9th Grade-Amanda Romo, Heath vanOpijnen, Adriana Mather
10th Grade-Helene Dorn, Derik Knak, Jacqueline Cordova
11th Grade-Claire Christensen, Rainie Read, Alexandra Reed
12th Grade-Madison Zimmerman, Marc Saechao, Owen Fitzgerald

Second Quarter of 2013-2014 Perfect Attendance Awards

U-Prep had 277 eligible students that qualified for Perfect Attendance for the 2nd quarter. The names of all eligible students were divided by grade and entered into a drawing for the 2nd Quarter Perfect Attendance prizes. With much thanks and appreciation to our U-Prep parents, \$210.00 in Scrip gift cards were donated and were awarded to our eligible students who met the criteria for Perfect Attendance.

The following student's names were drawn and received a prize at the January 17th, 2014 Panther Morning Rally;

6th Grade-Winn Aung, Elijah Tolbertson, MacKenna Wagner
7th Grade-Sophia Venneri, Ben Burgess, Prabhjot Khatkar
8th Grade-Miles McMillan, Dominic Giuntini, Isaac Ankeny
9th Grade-Adam Barsness, Kaitlyn Crume, Emma Yoshida
10th Grade-Bryan Lusher, Conor Fitzgerald, Cosette Brown
11th Grade-David McCallum, Brianna Kostielney, Jake Hill
12th Grade-Emily Tiedeman, Gursimran Singh, Cameron Griffith

Athletics Update

University Prep had a great winter sports season.

U-Prep Basketball was well represented locally. The girls were extremely successful from 6th grade through the varsity level, winning 4 out of 5 league titles (and a second for the 5th team). The varsity girls fundraised their way to Hawaii to bond as a team while participating the Maui Winter Classic. The boys side got a new look, with Mark Stephens taking over as the head varsity coach to join Paul Kaukonen at the high school level. We also brought in three new junior high coaches. The boys program from top to bottom adopted a fast paced, run and gun style of play that was exciting to watch. They also hit the ground running in the fundraising department, raising enough funds to outfit the team in nice U-Prep garb, as well as investing with the girls program in a state of the art shooting machine that they plan to use to come back next season as some of the best shooters in the area.

U-Prep Wrestling, though down somewhat in numbers from last season, was not lacking in success. Coached by Tommy Cervania, our wrestlers claimed the Sacramento Valley League team title, and sent most of the team on to Divisions, and several all the way to Masters. Congratulations on another fantastic season.

U-Prep Soccer had an amazing winter as well. Our junior high girl's teams topped the league this year. They were each other's best competition. The B team coached by Gina Johnson battled all the way to the championship game to face their own U-Prep classmates. In the Championship game, Brian Jacobsen's U-Prep A team took home the league title. Our varsity boys, coached by Brian Nichols, battled through a tough league season to claim second in the NAL. In section playoffs, they beat out last year's rival Esparto 3-2 in a hard fought overtime battle. Though a victory, they lost an All League standout, Jackson Kisanuki early in the game to a broken leg suffered during his attempt to score a second time that night. The boys finished as the Northern Section Division III Runner ups. The varsity girls posted a record breaking season, finishing as NAL champs, as well as the Division III Section Champions for the second year running. They finished the season with 15 wins, no losses, and two ties. In 17 games, they scored 82 goals, while only allowing 4 goals scored. Congratulations Coach Rich Bourne and ladies.

In other news, Thanks to an amazing volunteer effort, U-Prep completed another major facility upgrade. Our softball program gained some beautiful new all metal dugouts. Thanks in large part to Robert Frommer, who not only helped plan the project, but also did much of the labor including all of the welding. U-Prep thanks the Frommer family, as well as Frommer and Frommer Steel, Tig Tech Iron Works, and The Redding Home Depot for their generous donations.

Highlight on Alumni

Our alumni of the quarter tribute goes to **Janette Paramo**, who graduated from U-Prep in May, 2009. She is the proud new owner of a bakery in town called ***Cake is the Best Part***. *Cake is the Best Part* is a bakery and bistro that serves fresh pastries, sandwiches, soup and salads every day. They also create cakes for all occasions: weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, baby showers, bridal showers, christenings, fund raisers, graduations, and any other occasions you can imagine. It is located at 1024 Placer Street, and you can check it out on the her website www.cakeisthebestpart.com

During her senior year at U-Prep, Janette participated in the ROP program for Restaurant Occupations. Her on-site assignment at the time was to work with Chef Cal DeMercurio at Rivers Restaurant. Upon graduation from high school, she was offered a position to stay on board as an employee at Rivers, meanwhile starting the Culinary Arts program at Shasta College. When Che' Stedman, the owner of Moonstone Bistro and also one of her instructors at Shasta, heard rumors of Rivers closing, he offered Janette the position of patissier (pastry chef). While working at Moonstone Bistro she also completed her college education at Shasta College and received her Associates in Science Degree in Hospitality Management in Culinary Arts. After working for Moonstone for a year, she made the difficult decision to leave and begin employment at View 202 to gain additional experience training under another renowned chef, Chef Jason Arbusto. While working as the Pastry Chef at View 202, Janette received a job offer from another one of her instructors from Shasta, Sadie Roy, to be the baker at Simpson University. She remained part-time at View 202 and full-time at Simpson. A few months later she received another job offer from a previous co-worker. Steven Berger and his wife Barbara Berger were opening a new restaurant in downtown Redding, Cafe Paradisio, and asked for Janette's help. While working as the Sous Chef and Pastry Chef for Cafe Paradisio and also the baker for Simpson, yet another job offer arose when Teri LaHorgue asked Janette to come work for her at Cake is the Best Part to help decorate cakes in August of 2013. Three weeks later, Teri offered to sell the bakery to Janette, and by the end of January 2014 they finalized the switch. Owning her own bakery at the age of 23 is the culmination of everything that she has been working towards. This has been Janette's dream since she was young, but she didn't know that she would get this opportunity so soon. Janette will be sharing her story (and hopefully her cake!) with our eighth and ninth graders on May 2nd at our annual Career Day. Congratulations, Janette, you are an inspiration!

