



Valencia High School

November, 2008

Welcome to the November edition of the 2008/2009 monthly e-communication from Valencia High School. We hope you have a great month. Don't forget about the school's website at www.valencivikings.com (and the counseling section), where you can find updated information on a daily basis.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Financial Aid Information Night

- The counseling department will be hosting a financial aid night for interested parents and students on Monday, November 3rd from 7:00 until 8:00 pm in the VHS theater. The presenter will cover topics such as the FAFSA form, Cal Grants, and other scholarships and aid available to students for college purposes. All parents are invited, but it is especially helpful for parents of juniors and seniors who are soon to be paying college expenses.



California High School Exit Exam

- On November 4th and 5th, the California High School Exit Exam will be given to all 11th and 12th graders who have not yet passed the exam. The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is a graduation requirement, and its goal is to ensure that students receiving a high school diploma can demonstrate grade-level competency in reading, writing, and mathematics. The exam assesses skills on the California Content Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Students are required to pass both the English-Language Arts and Mathematics portions of the exam in order to receive a California high school diploma.



VHS Parent Academy

- The first Parent Academy of the year will take place on Thursday, November 6th from 7:00 until 8:30 pm. This wonderful evening will include keynote speaker, Dr. Shannon Hanrahan, and will include topics such as "Parent/School Communication," presented by members of the counseling/teaching staff and "Emotional/Socials Concerns for Today's Adolescents," presented by mental health professionals. (see flier that was attached to email)



The Fall Drama is Coming!

- The VHS Fall Drama *A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE* by Arthur Miller will be presented Nov. 19, 20 and 21 at 7PM in the VHS Theatre. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, and \$10 for adults. This period piece set in the early 1950s in Brooklyn, New York City, deals with the very hot topic of illegal immigration and its effects on a family, a community, and maybe even the entire country. The play features seniors Lachlan McKinney, Jenna Ebersberger, Easton Schirra and Lindsay Clark; and, juniors Chandler



Patton and Sam Fleischer. For ticket info please contact Mr. Whelan at SWhelan@hartdistrict.org or at 661-294-1188, ext. 522.

Holiday Boutique



- ❑ On Saturday November 22nd from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm, VHS Choir Students will be hosting their annual Holiday Boutique to help raise monies for the Choral and Vocal Jazz Program! Over 40 vendors will be in attendance at this public boutique in the Valencia Small Gym selling holiday goods, crafts, and treasures! All of Santa Clarita is invited! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Choral students will also be singing carols at the boutique! To be a vendor in our upcoming boutique, please contact the Choral Director, Christine Enns

Senior Yearbook Ads

- ❑ Parents, if you still want to put a senior ad in this year's yearbook, please do so right away. The yearbook class is accepting late entries. The form is on the VHS website in the "yearbook" link.



ROP Classes Open for 2nd Semester

- ❑ Please encourage your junior and/or senior to go to the ROP office and see the variety of classes that are available for next semester. These classes provide an excellent chance to learn about careers while earning elective credits. They are taught by professionals in the field and can give students a great opportunity to learn about a career that they may be interested in before spending the time and money on the same college-level courses. We also have several new classes that have been added to the schedule. You can see the ROP classes online by accessing <http://www.hartrop.com/index.php?page=schedule>. Send your student to see Mrs. Ivey in the ROP office for more information.

Free CAHSEE Test-Prep and Tutoring

- ❑ Parents, did you know that you and your student have access to a free, online California High School Exit Exam test preparation program? This program is to help students become more comfortable with the content and gain the knowledge necessary to successfully complete whatever the Department of Education puts on the California High School Exit Examinations. Students can log in to <http://www.usatestprep.com/front/login.php> and enter the username: valenciaca and the password: newton40 to access this excellent program. Links to this program are available on the school's website in the "Quick Links" section.



The Nation's Report Card

- ❑ Valencia High School has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as The Nation's Report Card. Your senior student may be selected to be part of a representative group of grade 12 students selected from our school to participate in NAEP this school year. Participation in NAEP is voluntary and confidential. Students will not be required to finish the test or to answer all test questions. Names of students taking part in NAEP will not be recorded, and your child's grades or progress in school will not be affected by participating. If your child is chosen, you will be notified after the holiday break before the exam.



Funkeyboards are Here!

- ❑ Funkeyboards is a unique set of designed stickers, shaped to fit your keyboard, which covers your entire keyboard with beautiful and astonishing graphics, allowing you to select the looks of your keyboard thus transforming it to a Fashion accessory. Designer Keyboard Stickers are available for sale in the library (as a library fundraiser) in the following designs: Glow in the Dark, Water Drops, Baseball, Flames, Leopard, Basketball, Football, Tennis, Zebra, Camouflage, and Skulls. (See the display in the library.) These make great gifts for the holidays, thank you gifts, birthdays, or any occasion where you need something different and unique and are only \$9.00 Give your keyboard a Face-Lift and support the library!



Math Department Fundraiser

- ❑ The math department will be having a fundraiser at Barnes & Noble, Baja Fresh, and Ben & Jerry's on Tuesday, November 25th. Students will be able to pick up flyers with further information from their math teachers in the next couple of weeks.

Paper Donation

- ❑ If you have extra/access to pastel-colored copy paper, please consider donating some to your child's teacher(s). Many teachers are running low on colored paper for worksheets, exams, and projects and would be grateful for any donations you could offer. Check with your child's teacher, if you have any to donate.



Valencia Nissan Car Give Away

- ❑ Valencia Nissan is a proud sponsor of the William S. Hart Union High School District, and once again this year, Valencia Nissan will be giving away a brand new car to one of our district's eligible students. To be eligible students must: 1) be a 10th, 11th, or 12th grader. 2) have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. 3) have a 97% attendance rate. Also, eligible students may not have had any out-of-school suspensions during their tenure in the Hart District. Eligible students will receive a personal registration notice and will need to register with a parent on Thursday, March 26th between 6:00 to 7:30 PM at the Valencia High School stadium. The drawing will take place immediately after registration at 7:30 PM.



Grades and College Eligibility

- ❑ Colleges do not accept any grades below a "C" for any required classes. If your student receives a "D" or an "F" in any required class, he/she MUST retake that class to be eligible to apply to college during his/her senior year.



College Admission Testing

- ❑ Students planning to apply to any four-year college or university must take the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT college entrance exam. The University of California System and many independent colleges further require the SAT Subject Tests, as well. Colleges require seniors, who plan on attending college next fall, to complete these entrance exams by December, 2008. For test requirements of particular college and universities, please contact the college or university directly or via the Internet.



Phone Information

- ❑ If any of your phone numbers have changed since last year, please update this information with Karen Wiederhold, the assistant registrar, by either calling her at extension 414 or by e-mail at kaw@hartdistrict.org. Some teachers have tried to call home and found the current numbers that we have on file disconnected or not working.



NCAA Clearinghouse

- ❑ If you have a junior or senior student who plans on being an athlete at the college level, he/she must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. The registration website can be found at: www.ncaaclearinghouse.com. If your student needs additional help with eligibility issues, he/she can contact Mrs. Stroh in the counseling office or by email at kas@hartdistrict.org.



DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:

Counseling

- ❑ The counseling office is offering the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery on Tuesday, November 18th. This exam is free and is a wonderful way for your child to learn more about their future career aptitudes. The ASVAB consists of eight individual tests, covering academic as well as vocational-technical abilities and skills. It also produces three career exploration scores for verbal, math, and science & technical skills. These results give your child a complete and accurate picture of his/her academic and vocational abilities, skills, strengths, and weaknesses. Your child can sign up for the exam in the counseling office!



- ❑ VHS counselors have teamed up with Revolution Prep to provide students a practice ACT exam on Saturday, November 22nd from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. The exam will cover all sections of the actual ACT, including the essay. Revolution Prep will grade the exam and provide online feedback, including personalized comments on the essay and a detailed score report. This is a great chance to determine the level of preparation that will be necessary to ensure a student's success on the actual exam. Cost for the exam and results evaluation is \$10, and students can sign up in the counseling office.



- ❑ The filing deadline for all University of California and California State University campuses is 11:59 p.m. PST on November 30, 2008. Make sure your child gets his/her applications completed and submitted on time to ensure the best chances of admission.



- ❑ For those students who took the PSAT on October 18th, they must attend a "Give-Back Night" on Tuesday, December 9th from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm in the VHS theater. This important, informative night will not only include returning score reports to students, but the president of Princeton Review will help students interpret their scores, discuss the relationship between college testing and college admissions, and share pertinent curricular requirement information regarding college admissions. Contact Mrs. Theresa Long at 294-1188, ext. 425 with any questions.





- Students/parents should be checking the “A-G” course requirement website to make sure students are taking the correct classes to be eligible to apply for a UC or CSU university. The website can be found at: <https://doorways.ucop.edu/list>

Fine Arts

- VHS Drama is pleased to report that senior Lachlan McKinney won 1st place at the Drama Teachers Association of Southern California in the Audition/Monologue category this past weekend. Lachlan competed against 100 other students from throughout the Southern California area! Additionally, VHS Drama made it to the FINAL ROUND in three other categories, including Musical Theatre, Serious Scene and 3rd place in Large Group Drama.



Have a wonderful month!