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December 2006 Newsletter

Greetings!

Welcome to Palo Alto Partners in Education's (PiE) online monthly newsletter. This month our feature article covers the world of high school guidance at both Gunn and Paly. I am sure this is an article that will be of interest to many families.

This month as you all prepare for the holiday season, we would like you to know about two shopping events with Meli Meli Girls' Clothing and Adornments by Susan Schaps. Also the Wildcats new CD is out in time for the holidays and PiE gets 100% of the proceeds. See the PiE Local Business Supporters section for more details.

All of us at PiE wish you a safe and happy holiday season. We also extend our sincere thanks to all donors who have sent in their gifts for the 2006- 07 year.

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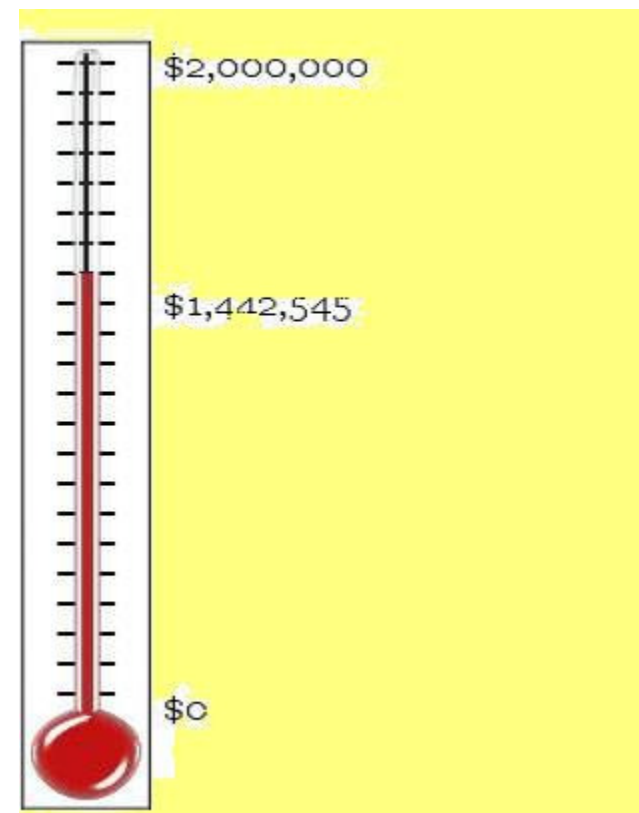
High School Guidance: Paly and Gunn's Different Paths to Student Success



Kaye Paugh is one of 16 teacher advisors at Palo Alto High School. Besides teaching English courses, Paugh leads grade level advisory classes for students in grades 10 through 12. She meets every week with one grade level class -- 27-28 students in each. She also coordinates with the counselors in Paly's College and Career Center (CCC) and other school staff to ensure that all 80 of her advisees are on track for meeting their high school graduation requirements and preparing for what lies ahead.

In January Myesha Compton, currently an attendance secretary at Gunn High School, will

Direct Appeal Campaign Update



become Gunn's sixth full time guidance counselor in a system that is modeled more along traditional lines. Compton will be responsible for roughly 300 students, freshmen through seniors. (She is completing graduate studies in counseling.)

In some ways, the two schools' guidance models have much in common. Both employ a network of counselors and teachers who often collaborate to address the curricular, academic, and mental health needs of their students. Both have CCCs which house information about colleges, college fairs, SAT/ACT/AP test preparation materials, vocational training, work-study programs, scholarships, and financial aid. But Paly's 15-year-old teacher advisory program and Gunn's guidance model reflect the schools' unique approaches, said Kimberley Cowell, Assistant Principal for Guidance Services at Gunn.



Gunn's guidance counselors, experts in their fields, are well-versed in the college application process, talk to college administrators and reps regularly and "are very much up-to-date on what colleges expect," said Cowell. They schedule individual conferences with every student at least once a year -- and students and parents often request additional meetings. Counselors also write personal letters of recommendation for all their students.

This year Gunn guidance is putting a focus on ethics and student stress, which are inextricably related, Cowell said. "When you're desperate, what are you willing to do? We're working to help the students develop better coping mechanisms than cheating. We want our students to be ethical individuals when they graduate from Gunn," she

said, adding that Gunn guidance counselors work with teachers, parents, outside counselors, and health professionals. Gunn has also begun holding intensive three-day orientations for freshmen to get them started on the right path.

At Paly, freshmen are initially assigned teacher advisors, but at the end of that year, they pick new ones who remain their advisors for the rest of their time at Paly. Aside from seeing their counselors in Advisory, students can also meet with them individually. "Students drop by all the time to ask questions, get advice, or share something with us," said Paugh, adding that TAs also may know their advisees from being -- or from having been -- one of their teachers at Paly.

Paly students also have access to college advisors in the school's CCC. Sandra Cernobori, a certificated college advisor, was hired in April of last year, and Briana Peikert, a part-time college advisor, began in August. All students meet with one of them at least once and most come in for appointments twice or more, according to Cernobori. She said she appreciates that she has a somewhat unique position, being a certificated advisor. "It's unusual for a public school in California to have a certificated college advisor," she said. "The job description is not common elsewhere. It's not typically built into school district funding," she said.

Funding from Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE) supports the guidance program at Paly and is just one of the great ways that principals can use PiE dollars to help their schools. PiE is the only non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting all schools in the Palo Alto Unified School District -- and the only non- district source for school staff funding. For more information about PiE, visit www.papie.org.

Thanks to your generosity, the PiE Direct Appeal campaign is progressing well. We have now reached 72% of our 2006-07 campaign goal.

Participation Rates (as of 12/11/06): School Name (Percentage)

- Addison (33.7%)
- Barron Park (17.4%)
- Duveneck (36.3%)
- El Carmelo (33.2%)
- Escondido (30.1%)
- Fairmeadow (29.8%)
- Gunn (11.6%)
- Hoover (26.7%)
- JLS (17.8%)
- Jordan (23.6%)
- Briones (28.2%)
- Nixon (24.9%)
- Ohlone (46.1%)
- Paly (15.1%)
- Palo Verde (41.7%)
- Terman (21.2%)
- Walter Hays (41.2%)

Year end is approaching

To get a tax deduction for your donation in 2006, please keep the following dates in mind:

1. Check Donations By Mail - Postmark by Dec 31st
2. Credit Card Donations Mail - Postmark by Dec 26th to ensure adequate time for processing
3. Paypal Donations - online by December 31st

Please note for Paypal donations, you do not need a

Picture 1: Gunn Guidance Counseling Team - Kimberley Cowell, Kimberley Diono, Paige Johnson and Pat Conway (missing Jovi Johnston and Linda Kirsch)

Picture 2: Paly Counselors Briana Peikert and Sandra Cernobori

Pictures by volunteer photographer Wendy Hopfenberg

Paypal account. You can donate using a credit card.

[For more information on donating to PiE and to print donation forms, please click here](#)

PiE Local Business Supporters

A flyer for Meli Meli's Fall/Holiday 2014 events. The flyer has a white background with a dark red border. At the top left, the logo '{meli meli}' is written in a cursive font, followed by 'HAPPY CLOTHING FOR SWEET KIDS', 'FALL / HOLIDAY 2014', and 'WWW.MELIMELI.COM'. Below this, a teal box contains the text 'TWO HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENTS BENEFITTING PARTNERS IN EDUCATION'. Two event details are listed: 'Dec. 13, 8:30am - Walter Hays Kids Club Featuring Meli Meli Clothing, Rosa Clark jewelry and baked goods on sale.' and 'Dec. 14, 2-5:30 - Kikis Candy bar 3750 Fabian Way, Palo Alto Featuring Meli Meli Clothing, Kikis gift items, Susan Schaps Jewelry'. At the bottom of the teal box, it says 'A great way to shop for the holidays and give to our schools, too.' To the right of the text are three photographs: two children in winter clothing, two children playing with a red bow, and a close-up of a young girl in a pink patterned dress.

Join our mailing list!

[Join](#)

1. Hope you will be able to join the Dec 13 and 14 shopping events to support PiE. 15% of proceeds will be donated to PiE.

2. Hey, Hey its The Wildcats!

The new CD from the popular Palo Alto dad's band is hot off the presses, just in time for the holidays. The Wildcats' "Multi-Purpose Room," featuring ten of the band's greatest hits, will arrive in Palo Alto on December 18th. Reserve a copy by sending an email to: WildcatsBand@gmail.com The CD's are \$20 and the best part is that 100% of the profits go to Partners in Education. So stuff some stockings and support our schools!

3. Lydia Ng of Allstate Insurance Company will donate 5% of every application she writes for PiE supporters. For more information please contact Lydia at lydiang@allstate.com or 866-233-7788

If you are a local business and would like to become a PiE business supporter, please contact Muneerah Merchant at mmerchant@papie.org or 650- 329-3990

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