



University Preparatory School

PANTHER PRIDE

OCTOBER 2013
VOLUME X, ISSUE 1



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Early Release Days
October 28th
November 18th
December 9th

School Holidays/Breaks
November 11th
November 25th–29th
December 20th -
January 6th

Special Bell Schedules

Final Exam Schedule
December 17th–19th

Panther Afternoons
October 25th
November 22nd

Performances
Bye Bye Birdie
November 8th & 9th
November 15th & 16th

Winter Arts Choir/Band
Concert
December 10th

Winter Strings Concert
December 12th

Activities
Canned Food Drive
November 12th–22nd

Events

College Financial Aid
Night by
College Options

December 4th 6:00 pm
Marr Auditorium

Superintendent/Principal's Corner... Kathy Malain

School opened this year on a wave of positive feedback and energy. Students and teachers are excited about U-Prep's cutting-edge technology this year. Using funds raised by last year's auction and parents' generous donations, our **U-Prep Educational Foundation** purchased an Apple TV and Ipad for every classroom. Additionally, the school purchased a class set of Google Chromebooks for each of our middle school Core classes to afford the students more opportunity for research and accessing real-world articles relating to their various subject matter areas. Our sixth graders will all be given instruction in key boarding and basic computer programs using the Chromebooks in their fourth quarter of ROTA. World Languages is enjoying a portable laptop laboratory to enable their students more opportunity to practice listening to and producing the modern language they are studying. Lastly, we have installed a Mac lab to accommodate two of our new elective classes—Video Production and Music Production. Students and teachers are all enjoying their new mode of learning. Three cheers for our Innovative Technology Department who spent all summer wiring the building to accommodate our new devices!

It's always fun to add new staff and this year is no exception. We had several openings created by our growth and others due to staff leaving for their own exciting opportunities. **Melissa Gulden** was offered a large scholarship and is currently working on completing her Ph.D. in writing at the University of Louisiana. **Vanessa Chandler** reluctantly gave up teaching to devote her energies to her burgeoning publishing company, Red Arrow Media, but has promised to return as a guest speaker in her new capacity as an entrepreneur. **Tammy Gatlin** moved to Oregon where her husband was offered a new job and she'll be closer to her parents and daughters. **Chris Combs** has always dreamed of teaching at his Alma Mater and finally had the opportunity. **Andy Hedman** is enjoying his well deserved retirement after devoting 35 years to shaping young minds. We are delighted for them all, although we will miss them. **Brad Baker** did not leave us, but he has switched to teaching P.E. at his request. **Kristen Haworth** is our new high school counselor. She is a local girl who has been working at Shasta College helping her students transition to a four-year school. **Lisa Taylor** (7th grade Math) is our new math teacher who grew up locally. She attended Shasta High where she was an honor student and accomplished athlete before completing her teaching credential at Chico last June. **Jenne Mondry** (7th grade Core and Drama III and IV) recently moved with her husband and young son from North Carolina where she taught middle school for 14 years. She also has her National Board Certification. **Matt Love (8th grade Physical Science)** moved to Redding last year with his wife and he loves it here. He was delighted to move from subbing at U-Prep to

becoming a full-time staff member. **Tawnie Kramer** is another Chico graduate that has joined us; she is teaching ninth grade English and helping to coach volleyball. **Morgan Peck** is our new part-time science teacher, teaching two sections of sixth grade Earth Science and two sections of Physics. **Robyn Johnson** (yes, our third Mrs. Johnson!) is a long-term substitute in sixth grade math while Mrs. Bird is on maternity leave with her new little Samuel Aaron. Mrs. Johnson is also coaching JV volleyball and works in the After School program as well. They are all off to a great start and we are delighted to have them as part of our U-Prep family.

Page 3 has a summary of the information I presented to the SUHSD Board at their August Board meeting. Since its inception the staff of U-Prep has enjoyed a positive and supportive relationship with the leadership and Board of the Shasta Union H.S. District. U-Prep presents an annual report to the district's Board of Trustees. As the authorizer of our charter school, SUHSD has oversight responsibilities in the areas of finance and student achievement. All of our budget reports are presented to both the school and the district's boards for approval. Charter schools must also maintain state testing scores that are equal to those of the authorizing district. Right before Back-to-School Night we found out that our diligent students at U-Prep had maintained their 910 API score making us the highest scoring high school and middle school in Shasta County. The STAR test will be replaced in the future years by Common Core Assessments.

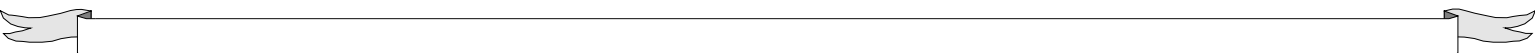
Philosophy Behind Our U-Prep Dress Code

At U-Prep the partnership between parents, students, and school is the foundation of our culture and environment. The dress code is an integral part of what makes our school unique and we ask families to support these rules. There are a number of reasons that we instituted this code. First of all we feel it is important to teach young adults how to present themselves in a business-like manner. Learning that there are situations that call for more formal attire as well as times when casual dress is not appropriate is a life skill that will serve students beyond their schooling. There are many dress up and school spirit days that provide opportunities to dress differently. We believe that our dress code contributes to the academic environment, allows students to focus on their work, and sets U-Prep apart from other schools. U-Prep is a school of choice and supporting the policies that inform our culture is an important consideration in the decision to enroll your student. The complete School Dress Code can be found online in the **2013-14 Student/Parent Handbook, pages 18-19.**



ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

Congratulations to **Wes Hartmann**, our 2014 National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist. There are approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 59th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Based on their performance on the PSAT, these academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$35 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. We would also like to recognize our commended students, **Skyler Bistarkey, Michael Golden, Gregory Lennon, Jakob McBroome, Riley Russen** and **Logan Ryan** for their excellent scores.



2012 - 2013 REPORT TO SUHSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 13, 2013

Academics/Awards/Recognition

- **2012 API: 914; Similar Schools Score 8**
- 2012-13 CAHSEE (sophomores) Pass Rate: 99% ELA; 100% Mathematics
- 2012-13 71% Passing Rate on AP exams
- 2 National Merit Scholar Finalists
- **2013 California Distinguished School**
- **2012 *Newsweek's* "America's 500 Best High Schools" (Rank: 176)**
- 100% HS graduation rate; 1% of graduates joined military, 57% matriculated to junior college; 42% to 4-yr School
- AP Studio Art 2 and 3 Dimensional
- ***US News & World Report*: Gold Medal School**

Budget

6% Reserve; exception-free audit; fundraising (Educational Foundation)

Fine Arts

- *Just Dance Performance*
- *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (fall musical) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (spring play)
- 4 students accepted to Region II Honor Band
- Grant for stringed instruments from McConnell Foundation

New Extra-Curricular Opportunities

WEB (*Where Everyone Belongs* – Junior High rendition of Link Crew)

Community Involvement/Partnerships

- Partnerships with Shasta College, SCOE, McConnell, CH2MHill, Simpson University, local service clubs, YMCA
- Completion of the Marquee & Reader Board in conjunction with Shasta College,
- ***25 student visitors from China in spring,***
- ***\$10,000 Confucius Classroom annual grant in conjunction with San Francisco State University***
- Rotaries: Camp Royal, Interact, college scholarships, Ducky Derby, Honor to Youth, Freshman of the Year,
- Educational Foundation Auction raised \$35,000;
- Rancheria grant to marquee/reader board; Pepsi grant for baseball scoreboard
- **Math task force with SCOE**

Enrollment

Enrollment holding steady

Currently have waiting lists for grades 6-12 for 2013-14

New Faculty/Staff

3 Certificated FTE Hired for 2011-12: 12th grade English, 6th grade math & Science, Administrative Intern/
Athletic Director

New Communication Tools

- Alumni Social Network
- Bullying Prevention added to Website

Coming in 2013-2014...

- AP Environmental Science
- Re-designed school website
- Symphonic Orchestra
- AP Latin
- Competitive Dance Team

University Preparatory School Presents

Bye Bye Birdie

Directed by: Romney Clements and Brad Fowers

Choreographed By: Marissa Kinneavy

University Preparatory School brings its audiences another new production with the all-American musical classic, Bye Bye Birdie; be prepared to "Put on a Happy Face!" At its heart, Bye Bye Birdie is a romantic musical comedy, full of songs and dances that remind musical theatre lovers of why they love the classics. Publicity agent and songwriter Albert Peterson is in a pickle when his client, Elvis-like rock & roll star Conrad Birdie, is drafted into the Army. Albert's sweetheart Rosie Alvarez comes up with a last-ditch national publicity scheme to save Albert and persuade him to give up the music business: Birdie will sing Albert's new song live on "The Ed Sullivan Show," where the heartthrob will also grant one last kiss to a teenage fan before going overseas. Kim MacAfee of Sweet Apple, Ohio wins the honor. All the telephones in her town are ringing off the hook and the entire town is reeling with anticipation. U Prep is "spreadin' sunshine all over the place" with this happy-go-lucky Tony Award-winning musical. The inventive musical score includes such hits as: "Put on a Happy Face," "One Boy," "The Telephone Hour," "One Last Kiss" and "Kids." Bye Bye Birdie and its theme of parents and kids will completely resonate with audiences of every generation. "Put on a Happy Face" with this Tony Award-Winning Musical Classic! U Prep will present Bye Bye Birdie at the David Marr Auditorium November 8 @ 7:00, November 9 @ 2:00 and 7:00, November 15 @ 7:00 and November 16 @ 2:00 and 7:00. Admission is \$7 students, \$10 general. Call 245-2790 for more information.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT PLANS TRIP TO DISNEYLAND

This year, U-Prep is proud to announce a new full orchestra elective option! Winds and strings together in one ensemble has been a long-time dream. This group, along with String Orchestra, Jazz Band and Concert Choir are planning a festival trip to Disneyland in May. A "festival" is an adjudicated performance in a concert setting. Judges listen to the pieces and give feedback and scores. After that, all groups get to travel to Disneyland for well-deserved fun.

Athletics Update

Some encouraging new items to report on the athletics front at U-Prep. First, our new football/soccer scoreboard is up and running after a year-long community effort to raise the funds for this improvement. A huge thanks goes out to all the groups who worked together to accomplish this project; Sunrise Rotary for jumpstarting the project last fall with the "Golf Ball Drop," Redding Rotary Main for their additional contribution, Junior Panthers Youth Football, U-Prep Football and Soccer programs, U-Prep Athletic Booster as well as U-Prep's Educational Foundation. We would also like to thank Pat Corey and McHale Sign Company for donating their time, equipment, and expertise to install yet another sign for U-Prep. Other groups also contributed by donating items for raffles or purchasing advertising banners toward the effort. A sincere "Thank you" to all who helped and especially to Doug Pappas for spearheading this project and making it become a reality.

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Counseling Corner

Welcome back, I hope you and your family had a fun and relaxing summer. For those of you I have not had the opportunity to meet I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Kristen Haworth and I am the new high school counselor at U-Prep. The amount of support I have received has made for an easy transition. I want to thank you all for being so welcoming; I am honored to be part of the Panther team!

Students are now in full-swing with activities, sports, and academic coursework. During this busy time it is important to create and maintain a healthy routine for homework, extracurricular activities, and family time.

There are many opportunities to take part in the next few months. Please take a look at the events below and make sure to stay informed through the bulletin and website. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. Let's work together to make the 2013-14 school year a wonderful experience for all!

I hope the Freshman class is settling in to their new routine as high school students. Continue to work on academics, building strong and healthy relationship with your peers and finding your niche here at U-Prep! Getting involved now will set the tone for your years to come. Your Freshman trip to Patrick's point is a great opportunity to start connecting!

Senior/Junior parent information night had a great turnout and I would like to thank all of the students and parents that attended.

The PSAT was administered on Wednesday October 16th and the students did a great job preparing and testing. The PSAT is the best preparation for the SAT, which is a college entrance exam that assesses academic readiness when applying to a 4 year college. Sophomores and Juniors planning to attend a 4-year university should take the PSAT.

Senior/Junior_Parents: We will host a Scholarship Information Session for senior Parents on October 30th from 6:00-7:00 PM in Room 210. Buffy Tanner, from College OPTIONS, will be our guest presenter.

The PLAN will be administered at U-Prep in late November/early December. The PLAN is the pre-test for the ACT, one of the two assessments acceptable for college Admissions. The PLAN is geared towards Sophomores but Juniors may also register for the PLAN. The PLAN tests English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science, and also includes an Interest Inventory to help students identify career options based on their interests.

Senior/Junior_Parents: U-Prep's Financial Aid Night is December 4th from 6-8 PM in the MARR Auditorium. Dennis Diestler, from College OPTIONS, will be our guest presenter. Dennis is an expert in the field of financial aid and college planning.

Kristen Haworth

khaworth@suhsd.net

Athletics continued

The second new item is a new partnership with Varsity News Network to build and maintain a new U-Prep Athletics website. This new site will be unveiled in the next couple of weeks and offers some great new tools to make current information and score reporting quick and convenient for all of U-Prep's coaches. We are looking forward to this new venue that will help us better highlight our incredible athletics programs.

Social Network Awareness

Dear Parents,

I would like to take a moment to talk about your child's online safety especially as it relates to social networking.

The decision to let your child use social media off campus is a family decision, although most sites require that their users be at least 13 years old to have an account. Students are not able to access social media accounts on school computers as student access to those sites is blocked.

Social media can be a good thing, but it becomes negative when students post comments on their sites that are hurtful to others. These instances are considered bullying and are taken seriously. If a student is saying something hurtful online to another one of our students, and what they are saying has a negative effect on that student's performance in school, the student who is posting negative comments can be held accountable by the school. The problem with social media is that people say things online that they would never say in person. Furthering the issue is the fact that websites like ask.fm and kik.com allow users to post comments anonymously.

We encourage you to talk with your sons and daughters about the potential danger of the Internet. Ask if they have an account with Facebook, Myspace, Instagram or any similar Web site/app. Although Facebook, Myspace and Instagram are the most accessed social media sites, there are new sites popping up all the time. Some of the new popular sites include: ask.fm, kik.com, voxer.com, and snapchat.com. If your child is using such a site with your permission, you may want to review his or her profile to ensure that no personal and identifiable information has been posted. We also encourage you to establish rules and guidelines to ensure the safety of your child while on the Internet. Some Web sites offer parental or family guidance for Internet safety, for example, Web Wise Kids, located online at <http://www.webwisekids.org>. If you think that your child has been bullied either in person or online, please do not hesitate to contact us. We take all instances seriously, and want to stop bullying as soon as we can.

Confucius Classroom

U-PREP's Chinese Language Program was recently admitted into the Confucius Institution network and became one of 640 Confucius Classrooms around the world. By hosting a Confucius Classroom, U-PREP will receive support to build a quality Chinese language program leading to AP Chinese, from which students graduate with a high level of language proficiency. Key benefits of this program include:

- Annual grants to improve and expand the school's Chinese language and culture program
- Teaching materials and resources
- Participation in College Board programs
- Assistance in locating and developing partnerships with schools in China
- Cultural trips in the nation and to China

This grant will enable us to further promote the growth of the Chinese language program at U-Prep and collaborate with other programs like the Chinese immersion program at Redding School of the Arts. Dr. Cheng, our Chinese language teacher, has purchased new books and materials for the classroom. In October we will be hosting an opening ceremony and a dinner party to celebrate the establishment of Confucius Classroom at UPREP. Chinese dignitaries from San Francisco Chinese Consulate and Confucius Institute of San Francisco State University will be coming to join us for the celebration.



University Preparatory School Coffee Fundraiser

Available for order November 15th

Make Checks Payable to University Preparatory School

Attn. Brian Murphy

Every 12-ounce bag of coffee has a custom label with our school colors and a graphic. At just **\$12 each**, this is a great item for every family with coffee drinkers, and it also makes a perfect gift! Coffee is the most widely consumed beverage (after water) in the United States. For each bag sold, we will earn \$4 which will be used for **visiting college campuses**.

**SIX DELICIOUS GOURMET COFFEE BLENDS ARE AVAILABLE
EITHER WHOLE BEAN OR GROUND**

Breakfast Blend

A rich, smooth medium-roast blend. It makes a perfect cup of morning coffee!

Decaf Breakfast Blend

A flavorful blend of medium-roast coffees that is 98% caffeine-free.

Dark Roast

Our classic French roast has an intense, smoky flavor and a tantalizing aroma.

Decaf Dark Roast

A European-style roast that has a bold, sweet flavor and is 98% caffeine-free.

Espresso Blend

A blend of three great coffees with an intense flavor. Suitable for both espresso drinks and brewed coffee.

Organic Blend

A blend of medium and dark roast certified-organic coffee that is bold, complex and very smooth.



Other Beverage Choices

Hot Chocolate

A rich and creamy blend of European-style cocoas, perfect on its own or mixed with coffee for a tasty mocha.

Vanilla Spice Chai

A blend of black tea, honey, vanilla and aromatic spices. Serve it hot or blended with ice.

For more about Humboldt Bay Coffee Company
or their fundraising program, visit

www.humboldtcoffee.com