HHSF eNews August 2016

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IN SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITIES



The MISSION of the Hillsdale High School Foundation is to fund the shortfall between what the school district gives our school and what our students need to thrive and succeed.

WELCOME BACK AND A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW HILLSDALE FAMILIES!

As students are meeting their new teachers and starting new subjects, the HHS site council, which includes faculty, staff and parents, has already met and determined the priorities that will best serve our students.

The **Family Partnership Program (FPP)** is how our Hillsdale families can help raise the \$360,000 needed to fund critical areas which unfortunately are **not** fully funded by the school district:

- Staffing for Small Learning Communities
- Technology upgrades
- Professional development and time for teacher release days (See article below)
- Grants to booster clubs (athletics, dance, drama and music) and PTSO
- After school learning center

The recommended contribution level is **\$500 per student**, but we encourage families to give at whatever level they are able. Last year we received support from 33% of our families. Imagine what we could accomplish if more families helped!

This past school year, 2015-16, we were successful in reaching our goal with the tremendous support of Hillsdale families, alumni and corporations (see full Donor Roll at the end of this newsletter). I want to express my sincere thanks to them all.for their past support.

Please join with other Hillsdale families by contributing to the **Family Partnership Program (FPP) for this academic year, 2016-17.** We want to give our students, faculty and staff the resources they need to strive and succeed. We can't do this without you.

Thank you.

Jennifer Russell, Executive Director, HHSF

Foundation Funded Professional Development over the Summer

Your contributions to the Hillsdale High School Foundation allowed Hillsdale to support an array of professional development opportunities over the summer that would have been impossible without your generosity. This past summer, over twenty staff members met at CSM to consider and discuss equity issues in education and design advisory curriculum that addressed race and gender and other topics related to equity in our community. Advisory teams met over the summer to welcome new staff members and prepare curriculum and activities. Teacher teams took a day to meet in advance of the school year to pre-plan lesson units and projects. Teachers attended Google training and a week-long workshop on English instruction hosted at Stanford University. Two teachers that are pursuing Career Technical Education certifications and others met to revise and improve our senior defense and portfolio system. School was out, but there was a lot happening at Hillsdale this summer!

Hillsdale New Classroom Building Opens January 2017

With 10 new science laboratories and classrooms, along with our World Language and Child Development classes, Hillsdale will be able to meet the growing demand for advanced science classes: A.P. science sections have increased from 5 to 9 in just the past six years. The new rooms will include more open space, modern lab areas, improved technology and be clustered around common storage and planning spaces for the Biology and Chemistry teams. As the foundation doesn't have to fund these types of capital projects, We will be supporting these new classrooms with new equipment and technology to equip this new state of the art building. Stay tuned for the Grand Opening announcement which will include a guided tour for parents and students!



Principal Jeff Gilbert at the Ceremonial Signing of the Last Beam

Good Bye to Beloved Faculty Members

We are sad to see the departure of a number of beloved faculty members following the 2015-16 school year, and wish them the best in their new endeavors. In our next newsletter we will introduce our new faculty and staff.

Rebecca Bucher, Marrakech counselor, will stay in the district and oversee the implementation of a new Multi-Tiered Student Support program that will create a network of supports for students struggling with mental health issues. Rebecca's positive energy and incredible people skills benefitted hundreds of students and families during her nine years at Hillsdale and will ensure that this new program is truly special.

Karl Lindgren-Streicher, Florence World History teacher, is moving to British Columbia with his fiancée and taking his enthusiasm and dedication with him to another lucky school. Mr. L-S was known for his ability to connect with students and his passion for his work and team and students. Karl was a pioneer in the use of technology at Hillsdale and gave many hours to the support of the Hillsdale community-both our students and teachers.

Crystal Maglio, Kyoto World History teacher and advisor, has taken a new job as the director of curriculum and instruction at a charter high school in the East Bay in order to be closer to home. Crystal was an incredible force for positive change at Hillsdale after coming to our school from a small school in the Bronx. Crystal is a leader in literacy instruction and was Hillsdale's professional development coordinator for the past two years. She is an incredibly bright and thoughtful educator and her passion for equity in education has led her to a new opportunity in Hayward. We wish her all the best and will miss her greatly.

Mindy Trisko has been an amazing Health and Child Development teacher at Hillsdale since the retirement of Linda Duerson. Mindy was able to lead difficult discussions on the most sensitive and important health issues in her classes while inspiring our teenagers to care for dozens of pre-school students in our child development classes. Mindy was always positive and loved our kids and her programs. She has taken a new position in San Jose, teaching fashion design, which is her true love as a teacher. She will be a great addition to her new school.

Emma Ross, Marrakech Biology teacher, is moving to Washington State to enjoy the Douglas Firs and precipitation and to be near her family. Emma came to us from Lowell High School by way of Stanford and brought a deep vision for her curriculum that included labs, inquiry problems and group projects. Emma always had students discovering and finding answers and was positive and enthusiastic at every turn.

Thank you and Best Wishes to Dedicated HHS FOUNDATION Board Members

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to three departing Board Members for their years of service to the Foundation.

Todd Zucker (HHS '63). During his nine years on the Board, Todd has served as its co-founder, president, and treasurer. More importantly, Todd brought his commitment to Hillsdale High School, his business experience, and his selfless integrity to conceptualizing, developing, and supporting the Hillsdale High School Foundation.

Along with his wife Linda (former HHS math teacher), Todd has been a major donor to the Foundation and has served as a constant keeper of the Foundation's vision to act as the legal and structural fund-raising umbrella organization at Hillsdale, and to raise funds for identified needs in support of the students of Hillsdale High School and the school's Small Learning Communities (SLCs) programming.

Todd will be missed but not missing. He will continue to provide leadership to the HHSF's Alumni Association Committee as it pursues its mission to reach, serve and engage all Hillsdale alumni and their families; to foster a lifelong connection between the High School and its graduates; and to provide Hillsdale High School with goodwill and support.

Lisa Tsuruoka has been a Foundation Board member for the past 4 years. She has been a major supporter and contributor through being in charge of many fundraising activities. Lisa has sold many engraved bricks for the football field walkway, as well as engraved seat plaques for the auditorium and little theater. She has managed the sales of preferred seating for graduation, and ordered food in mass quantities for Foundation-sponsored events such as the Hall of Fame and Donor Appreciation. She showed up at every school event, urging attendees to contribute to the Foundation. In fact, Lisa continued on the Board even after her youngest child had already graduated! We have been truly fortunate and blessed to have Lisa with the Foundation.

Brett Dyer. It didn't matter that Brett had never served on a board or was new to Hillsdale High School. He stepped up to the plate and consistently hit homeruns by being willing to tackle tough tasks, being passionate for Small Learning Communities and being dedicated to sustaining the Foundation and its mission. He joined the board four years ago when he signed on as Treasurer. In his third year, he also took on the role of Vice President in preparation for his fourth year as President. During his tenure Brett oversaw the Foundation's finances and improved reporting methods, helped establish the Hillsdale Sustainability Board, participated in various board committees and led the Foundation to achieve an unprecedented fundraising goal. Brett's dry wit and strong work ethic will be missed. We wish him, his wife Anna and their children all the best in the coming year.



The Hillsdale High School Alumni Association, operating under the umbrella of the Hillsdale High School Foundation, is proud to support today's Hillsdale Knights. Our mission is to reach, serve and engage all Hillsdale alumni and their families; to foster a lifelong connection between the High School and its graduates; and to provide Hillsdale High School with goodwill and support.

Over the nine-year life of the HHSF, Hillsdale alumni have contributed an average of \$50,000/year in restricted and unrestricted funds. This past year's donations totaled \$51,000, including \$10,600 for the After School Study Program in honor of alumnus Mike Abbott, and \$5,000 in scholarships memorializing past Hillsdale principal, Paul Armstrong. We acknowledge with great appreciation our current donors (listed below).

HHSAA efforts to connect with Hillsdale graduates, both students and their parents, include two annual events. On December 3rd, the Alumni will be hosting the 21st Olde Knights' Luncheon. This coming spring, in conjunction with Hillsdale, we will be co-hosting the 3rd annual Hillsdale High School Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

To learn more about our Alumni activities and to join the Association, we invite you to visit our website at hillsdalehsalumni.org.

Foundation Donors

HHSF is deeply grateful to the following current families, community members, alumni and corporations for their generous gifts received this past school year. For Knights and up donors, please contact Jennifer Russell at execdirector@hillsdalehsfoundation.org if there is any issue with the way your name has been listed so we can correct it before engraving it on the plague to hang in Sir Cedric's Court.

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email Jennifer Russell at execdirector@hillsdalehsfoundation.org