

# Wolverine World

Aliso Niguel High School Newsletter

Sponsored by the Aliso Niguel High School PTSA

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## A Message from our PTSA President, Beverly Lee

In order to make a difference, your voice must be heard. CUSD is conducting a Facility Needs Assessment and parents are highly encouraged submit ideas for improvements to the campus of Aliso Niguel High School. From the classrooms and bathrooms, to the fields or the library, we need your input.

This is what is happening. In order to plan for future facilities needs in CUSD, the District's Facilities Planning staff is directing the District's three architectural firms to complete a facilities need assessment for each of their assigned school campuses. Prior to preparing the Master Plan, the Facilities Planning Division needs to have an accurate and up-to-date "Needs Assessment" for each school facility. Mr. Salter has met with the architectural firm assigned to ANHS. The architects will then conduct site visits and work with a site advisory committee of administrators, staff, and parents.

The finished reports will be presented to the CUSD Board in late summer. With Board approval, a Master Plan will then be created and it shall serve as an organization and planning tool allowing the District to identify School Facility needs, and implement District goals, policies, and capital improvements in a timely and efficient manner ... for the next *five* years.

Aliso Niguel High School is almost 15 years old and "times have changed." Instead of 2,100 students enrolled, we have 3,200 students. Some rooms designed to be teacher workrooms have been converted to small classrooms. This summer construction will begin on a two-story modular classroom facility (complete with much needed restroom facilities) to replace the portables currently on our campus. What a wonderful difference this will make to our students and faculty.

Mr. Salter needs our input in order to develop a comprehensive ANHS Master Facilities Five Year Plan. Funding will be tight for the next few years in CUSD and your PTSA will work to have your voices heard both at school, the district and at the state level. Talk to your children, ask for their opinions about the facility, and any other needs they may want addressed. Forward your ideas or innovations to me at [fivestar@cox.net](mailto:fivestar@cox.net) and keep our school a premiere institution!

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Have you changed your phone  
number, cell number  
or email address?**

Please notify the office of any  
changes. In an emergency, all  
parent contact information must be  
**CURRENT!**

## A Message from our Principal, Charles Salter

The calendar for the next two years has been set for our school district. Those calendars contain the winter and spring breaks, holidays and summer vacations. I urge you to review these dates on the calendars to plan for your vacations and holiday travel.

It is important that we show our students that we value their education by having them attend school on a regular basis and not send the incorrect message inadvertently by scheduling vacations during instructional days.

Missing instructional days creates additional stress on students because they have missed content that has been reviewed in class or tests that need to be made up while the rest of the class has moved on to new material. It creates additional work on the teacher who has to both plan ahead and create assignments for the one child who is unnecessarily missing class; or the teacher must look back at which assignments the student has now missed and either recreate worksheets and re-teach for that one student.

Please note that a vacation or break during the school year is not considered an excusable absence. Teachers are not required to give make up work when a student misses for these reasons. **Illness and court appearances are the only excusable absences for students.** The school can request a doctor's note if a student has excessive absences. Death in the family is also excusable as well.

Please make every effort to ensure that your child is in school each and every day. There is a direct correlation to student attendance and student achievement. Students with excellent attendance and do their assignments show have higher academic achievement than those who don't regularly attend.

I urge you to give your attention to this matter.



### ANHS Teacher of the Year Mr. Paul Biggs

Congratulations to the 2007 Teacher of the Year for Aliso Niguel High School! English teacher Paul Biggs was named

Teacher of the year by the ANHS faculty and will represent our school in the District wide event this year. Mr. Biggs teaches English II and AP English Literature and has been at ANHS for nine years. Prior to coming to Aliso, he taught in Glendale Unified for five years.

Mr. Biggs is well known for his organization and leadership on Link Crew. This program occurs just before school starts in the fall and "links" junior and seniors with incoming freshman students to help them become acquainted with the campus and get to know some of the upper classmen.

Not only is Mr. Biggs a part of the academic faculty at ANHS, he plays many roles in athletics. He has coached basketball, football and baseball since 1994. Currently Mr. Biggs is busy as head coach of the Freshmen Boys Baseball team.

Mr. Biggs likes the quote "Teaching is the filling of a pail, but rather the lighting of a fire." Thank you Mr. Biggs for your dedication to teaching and guiding the students of ANHS.



### National PTA Reflections Art Program Update

Congratulations to the following students that received an Award of Merit in this year's National PTA Reflections Program: **Shawn Rossmiller** for Photography and **Matthew Streshinsky** for Literature. In addition, congratulations to the following students whose entries were forwarded to the Capistrano Council of PTSA's for further recognition: **Dana Roth** for Literature; **Jayson Garland-Mocnik and Farisha Haque** for Musical Composition; **Matthew Hartman** for Visual Arts; and **Jenna Kieselbach** for Photography. These students will receive an Award of Excellence from ANHS PTSA.

In addition, these students received the following awards from the Capistrano Unified Council PTSA:

Dana Roth	Literature Award of Merit
Jayson Garland-Mocnic	Music Award of Excellence
Farisha Haque	Music Honorable Mention
Matthew Hartman	Visual Arts Award of Merit
Jenna Kieselbach	Photography Honorable Mention

Next year's Reflections theme  
**"I can make a difference by...."**

Visit us at [WWW.ANHSPTSA.ORG](http://WWW.ANHSPTSA.ORG)

## ***The Secret of SAT Testing, Timing and Test-Taking***

### **JUNIORS –**

- If you are serious about getting into a top college, like the University of California, you will have taken Mr. Boomer's *College Entrance Test Prep* class in the fall, or are now taking it in the spring.
- Sign up for the **May SAT** and include the **Question and Answer Service** when you pay fees. This is the only test this spring you can get back with answers to go over errors and learn from mistakes, in case you take it again (which most students do in the **Fall** of senior year). Worried about taking it with AP tests? Consider this:
  - (a) The SAT comes on the first Saturday of the month – before AP tests
  - (b) All ships rise with the same tide, i.e. preparing for either test only helps with the others
  - (c) If you were serious about the SAT you would have taken Mr. Boomer's *College Entrance Test Prep* class – you are as prepared already as you can be.
- Applying to UC schools? Sign up for two **SAT II** Subject Tests in **June**. Pick tests in the subject you just took AP tests in. You didn't take AP courses? You are probably not going to a UC school.
- Can't average over 500 on each section of the SAT? Sign up for the **ACT** in June. It is given on a different weekend than the SAT.

### **SOPHOMORES**

- Plan to take Mr. Boomer's *College Entrance Test Prep* class in the fall or the spring. You will be coached on when, as well as how, to take the SAT.
- Plan to sign up for the **PSAT** in October.
- Over the **Summer** take classes at Saddleback, such as American History or History of Rock and Roll or Sign Language (those fulfill US History, Fine Arts, and Language requirements, respectively) in order to lighten your load junior year and, even more importantly, free up your schedule to take *College Entrance Test Prep*. Mr. Boomer has three sons. All of them took history over the summer during high school and not only did it count for high school requirements, but they all had the units accepted for credit by the colleges they attended (one being Berkeley).
- If you take an AP during sophomore year, take the **SAT II** in that subject in **June**.

John Boomer

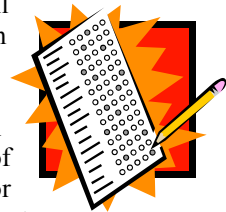
### **Upcoming SAT Registration Deadlines:**

April 13 for the May 5 test  
April 27 for the June 5 test

## **Information About Upcoming Tests**

### **STAR Testing**

Students at our school will participate again this spring in the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. The STAR Program, an important part of the state assessment system for education from kindergarten through grade twelve, was authorized by state law (Senate Bill 376) in 1977. Students in grades 9-11 at ANHS will be taking the STAR tests on May 16-18 with make up tests on May 22 and 23. PLEASE emphasize to your students that these tests are very important and can help track their progress as well as the progress of our school.



### **College Entrance Tests**

- Don't forget to schedule your SAT or ACT (with writing) test(s) this year. Please go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to register for the SAT. Go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to register for the ACT –be sure to also sign up for the writing exam. These tests fill quickly, so register early!! Our high school testing code for all tests is 051-324
- Remember, the UC system also requires SAT Subject tests in two different subject areas. For example, students in Biology or AP Biology may wish to take the SAT II in Biology. Choose your area of strength and test in those areas.

### **AP Tests: May 7 - 18**

- Students enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) course will take their AP test during the second 2 weeks in May.
- The complete testing schedule is available online at [www.apcentral.com](http://www.apcentral.com) Questions? Contact Marcia Stewart or Karen Everett, AP Test Coordinators.

May 7 Government, French  
May 8 Spanish, Statistics  
May 9 Calculus AB, Calculus BC  
May 10 English Literature, French Literature  
May 11 US History, European History

May 14 Biology, Physics B, Physics C  
May 15 Environmental Science, Psychology  
May 16 English Language, Art History  
May 17 World History  
May 18 Spanish Literature

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## Information for Seniors

### Guidance Advice for Seniors:

- Watch for your Student Aid Report Letter (SAR) to arrive. If you have not received it within 4 weeks of filing the FAFSA, contact the FAFSA office to be sure you are not missing important information on your application. As you receive your letters from college financial aid offices, review the financial aid carefully. Contact the specific college's financial aid office if you have questions or need to clarify information.
- Check the Aliso Niguel website [www.alisoniguel.com](http://www.alisoniguel.com) at least weekly for new scholarship opportunities. Research scholarships via [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- WARNING-you should not have to pay a service to apply for or to receive scholarship monies
- Apply for community colleges this spring, applications are available at the various colleges. Some 4 year colleges may still be accepting applications as well.
- Stay focused, keep your grades up. Admission and scholarship offers are provisional until your final grades from high school are submitted to the college. Colleges can and WILL rescind their offer if you don't keep your grades up.
- **Saddleback College is accepting online EARLY BIRD registration until March 24, 2007. Information packets to tell you how to do this are available in the guidance.**

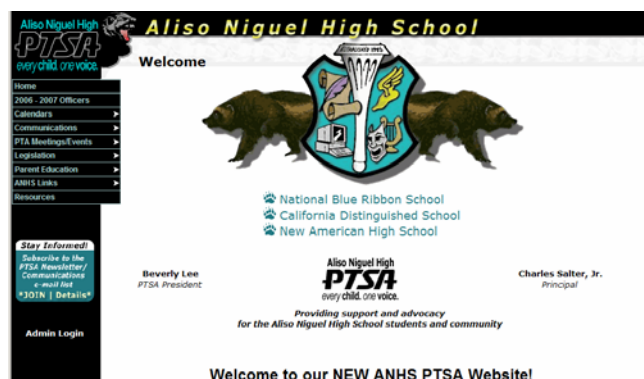


### Scholarships for Seniors

March and April are busy months for scholarship offerings. Continue to check the guidance website ([www.alisoniguel.com](http://www.alisoniguel.com) click guidance, then scholarships) and pay close attention to upcoming deadlines. Many scholarships go unclaimed as there are often few, if any, applicants. The local community groups are beginning the screening process for their scholarships. Make sure you have turned in three copies of the Local Scholarship Application packet to Mrs. Hecht to be eligible for consideration.

The guidance staff wants to be certain that all seniors receive recognition for any scholarships they have been awarded and plan to use at our Senior Awards program on June 6<sup>th</sup>. It is important that you furnish Mrs. Hecht with a copy of any scholarship awards letter you receive (i.e. school based, athletic, through parent's work, your church etc) so they can be included in our ceremony.

Vicki Hecht, ANHS Scholarship Coordinator



### Visit the PTSA Website!

Take a moment to visit the ANHS PTSA website at [www.anhsptsa.org](http://www.anhsptsa.org). This site was started 3 years ago to provide another easy access resource for ANHS families about the PTSA and family oriented activities available at the school. We are now in the process of upgrading the site to add information and benefits to those who visit. The new site should be "live" in April.

The information includes: Officers, Calendars, PTSA Newsletter and E-Notes, Meetings, Forms and Flyers, Reflections Program, Legislation, Special Education, Parent Education and ANHS links.

### News from SELF (Special Education Linking Families)

The word "special" can mean many things. Currently, in the public schools, we refer to certain students as "special" because they have different needs in order to attain their educational goals. We also use the word "special" when referring to regular education students who go above and beyond the call of duty in their community. Senior **Jennifer Okabayashi** is just such a "special" student. She was recently recognized by Channel 7 as a "Kool Kid" for her work with special needs students.

As a member of Aliso's Club Fun, Jennifer and other Club Fun members bring special needs students to school activities such as football and basketball games. As the mother of a special needs adult child, I know how important it is for these individuals to feel as if they are a real part of the greater society in which they live. Thank you, Jennifer, for reaching out to those who often feel that they aren't accepted, or feel they don't belong. Aliso Niguel is proud to have you as a member of our student body!

Maryanne Rose ANHS SELF REP

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# Aliso Niguel High School PTSA

## *Art of Appreciation Program*

Teacher Appreciation Week is April 2 - 5. The Aliso Niguel High PTSA's Art of Appreciation Program is a great opportunity to give special recognition and appreciation to those hard-working teachers as well as administrators, guidance counselors, custodians, proctors, bus drivers, etc. The following is a form to be completed by a student or parent. Please write the name of the person you want to recognize and check the areas of recognition that apply. You may include any extra comments at the bottom. Thank you for your notes of encouragement!



### *Art of Appreciation TO*



**Thank you for your gift of.....**

_____ Integrity	_____ Time	_____ Dedication	_____ Unselfishness
_____ Perseverance	_____ Encouragement	_____ Kindness	_____ Respect
_____ Honesty			_____ Excellence

**Comments**

From \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this page this page to the school office **NO LATER THAN March 30, 2007**



### **Reminder!**

The “**Don’t Come to Tea**” event is the only PTSA fundraiser besides the fall membership and scholarship drive. Over the years, your donations have generously supported our school.

Innovative programs, dedicated staff, and a breadth of opportunities for all students require extra resources. Every dollar you give goes directly to ANHS programs. We have a wonderful volunteer base and parents that believe in strong public schools. Every contribution helps to ensure that Aliso Niguel will continue to be a nationally recognized, award-winning high school by providing enriching programs for our students. Our goal is 100% participation! Please consider a donation and send your check to the ANHS PTSA, 28000 Wolverine Way, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656. Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 250 High Tea  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 200 Tea at the Ritz  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100 Afternoon Tea  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 Tea And Crumpets  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 Tea Sipper  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Special Blend

### **Important Dates for the 2007-2008 School Year**

First Day of School	September 4, 2007
Professional Growth Day	November 2, 2007
Veterans’ Day Recess	November 12, 2007
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 19-23, 2007
Winter Recess	Dec. 24–Jan.4, 2008
Martin Luther King Day	January 21, 2008
Semester Wrap Up Activities	February 1, 2008
Presidents Day Recess	February 15, 18, 2008
Spring Recess	April 7 - 11, 2008
Memorial Day	May 26, 2008
Last Day of School	June 18, 2008

**With the exception of the first and  
last days of school, there will be  
NO SCHOOL on all dates listed.**

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## More on Underage Drinking

On May 12th, 2001, my intelligent, talented daughter suffered permanent brain damage from an accidental overdose of a drug called Ketamine. Her journey into the world of intoxication had begun with the most prevalently abused drug in the country, ALCOHOL. Many "good" parents think it is okay and "normal" for a teenager to occasionally imbibe, particularly if they are supervised by "responsible" adults. However, recent research suggests that drinking is NOT okay for those under the age of 21, and we, as parents must keep aware of what is going on in our adolescent's world. In view of this, please consider the following:

- ★ One study found that 56% of high school seniors in 2004 had consumed "Alcopops". "Alcopops" (Smirnoff's Ice, Mike's Hard Lemonade, Bacardi Silver to name a few) are very enticing to teens (particularly girls) because they do not have such a strong alcoholic taste. They taste much like a soft drink. However, the alcohol content is higher than the alcohol content of beer. The California State PTA has campaigned to get Alcopops to be classified as distilled spirits, rather than beer, to help keep this beverage out of the hands of California's youth.
- ★ About 5,000 Americans under the age of 21 die every year because of alcohol consumption due to auto accidents, murders, suicides, falls, burns, drowning and alcohol poisoning.
- ★ 50% of teens surveyed in one study admitted that alcohol and other drugs were present at the parties they attended.

Please keep in mind that **ALCOHOL IS A DRUG**, and if you are saying to your teen, "It is okay to drink with me." You are saying it is okay to break the law!

Maryanne Rose, ANHSPTSA Legislation Chair



- 2 CUSD Board Mtg.-7:00 PM-Education Center
- 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 3 Deadline to register for the May 5 SAT
- 6-13 Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL
- 18 PTSA Scholarship Applications due
- 18 PTSA Meeting -7:00 PM-Office Lounge
- 27 Deadline to register for the June 2 SAT
- 30 South Orange County Youth Job/Career Fair  
Mission Viejo HS – 6:30 PM



- 1-12 AP Testing
- 4 End of Second Progress Reporting Period
- 5 SAT I and II Testing at ANHS
- 7 CUSD Board Mtg.-7:00 PM-Education Center
- 12 Coffeehouse Chat – 11:00 AM
- 16-28 STAR Testing – Grades 9-11
- 18 Last Day to Drop a Second Semester Class
- 22, 23 STAR Make Up – Grades 9-11
- 23 PTSA Meeting -7:00 PM-Office Lounge
- 24 Esprit De Wolverine Achievement Award  
6:30 PM (By invitation)
- 28 Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL



## Wolverine World

Articles for the next issue of the "Wolverine World" should be submitted to the PTSA newsletter box located in the school office or to [kathywestling@cox.net](mailto:kathywestling@cox.net) no later than noon May 1, 2007. The "Wolverine World" is published five times a year with issues in September/October, November/ December, January/February, March/April, and May/June by the PTSA. Learn more about ANHS PTSA at our website: [www.anhsptsa.org](http://www.anhsptsa.org). The mention of any business or service in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the PTSA.

Kathy Westling, Editor

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