

**ZOO MAGNET  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

PARENT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
13 December 2006

**WELCOME**

Linda Hurevitz, President

W 818.500.4800 H 818.769.9404 [vitzz@earthlink.net](mailto:vitzz@earthlink.net)

Linda: The Teacher Appreciation Lunch is on M Dec. 18 at 1pm at the Zoo Magnet campus; set up at 12:30pm in Mr. Trammel's room.

Nora: Decorations will be coordinated by Leslie, Nancy and Cherilyn – red and white theme. Still need help if anyone can, please email me.

But it all looks good. We can use another salad and fruit things for about 20 teachers/staff

Dan: How many people do you estimate?

Nora: Plan on drinks for about 30-40 people.

Marcia: I can bring paper goods but we also have lots of leftover party goods from the holiday party.

Marcia: EScrip. Ralph's grocery store is now on our list, so please sign up at [ralphs.com](http://ralphs.com) and click on Community Contributions Program, and go from there. Our NPO group number is 83862 or you can just type in Zoo Magnet. Phone number is 800.660.9003 if you need to call Ralph's for your Ralph's Club number. They will give us a quarterly amount of \$150/family/quarter, based on what you spend in one quarter.

Food 4 Less will send us Rewards Cards that we can use to sign up online. They are coming in the mail this week. If you have any questions please contact Marcia Stone at [robosto52@aol.com](mailto:robosto52@aol.com)

Linda: Next year's holiday party – should we reserve the Grand Ballroom for next year, or do it at the cafeteria again? The Winter Ball is at the Grand Ballroom this Saturday, so if you want to see what it looks like when you drop off your kids, you can go in and look.

Lee: One draw back is the Light Festival so traffic is always pain around the Zoo. Also, we have to schlep the food and stuff up the hill to the Zoo.

Linda: It's something to think about.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Penelope Jones, Secretary

H 323.221.4097 [penelope@usc.edu](mailto:penelope@usc.edu)

Deferred until Lee reviews minutes from last meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Michele Wolfe, Treasurer

H 818.509.0300 [rleewolfe@earthlink.net](mailto:rleewolfe@earthlink.net)

We took in \$4,028.50 at the silent auction, for a total of \$9,670 in the ZMPC account.

Linda: I received a request from a student for a ping pong table. Costs about \$400 I think and it needs to be an outdoor one, with a cover. Let's think about it. Also, Deb Brown and her husband are donating a sycamore tree but we can get an even larger one for about \$1,000. Deb will donate \$500 toward the bigger tree.

Leonard: A smaller tree will grow better than a bigger tree. We might want to think about that.

Donna: I don't think we should plant a sycamore tree, because it is difficult to water the tree.

### ZOO CREW/ZOO SENIOR REPORT

Natalie Hamamdjian, President

C 818.765-5074 [natalie.ham@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.ham@gmail.com)

Jessica Jedvaj, Vice President

C 818.448.4101 H 818.986.3026

Natalie not in attendance.

Jessica: The Winter Ball is Saturday, December 16, 7-11:30pm in Grand Ballroom at the LA Zoo. Leslie Macias is donating all the decorations – Thank you Leslie!

### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Stephen Foster W 818.769.8510 [sfost1@lausd.k12.ca.us](mailto:sfost1@lausd.k12.ca.us)

Not in attendance.

### COORDINATORS 'S REPORT

Lee McManus [mccgroovy@earthlink.net](mailto:mccgroovy@earthlink.net) W 323.660.0165

Lee: The 9<sup>th</sup> grade Catalina Trip seems to be on for now. SIMI is a marine educational institute and is a great experience. Very challenging. Organized by Ms. Larsen and Mr. Owsley. Will be two nights and three days at the end of March. The trip is free because \$2500-3000 paid for by Kaiser Foundation.

Jessica: why can frosh go on a 3-day trip and seniors can't go?

Lee: Because it has to be educational, not a party trip. I will talk to you about this later in private.

Finishing up for the year, the faculty decided no guests will be allowed on campus next week during finals, so students cannot bring cousins, friends, etc. We will have plenty recent grads visiting anyway.

Linda: When can we get a spring calendar?

Lee: Next week.

Ms. Rojas is not here but she said to tell you she will be extremely busy thru next Friday, so hold off until after next Friday to give her a call. She is finishing up some vital stuff. Wait until after finals to call, but can email her if you want to.

Linda: Ms. Larson and Mr. Owsley will both try to do some labs over winter intersession, not for credit just for educational fun. So I will let you know to ask the teachers about it.

Princeton Review Scholarship: We are going to make it a scholarship open to all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. To register for the competition, go see Ms. Rojas and get a number from her first and the application. Write a 500-700 word essay from one of four choices. Will be judged by parents, Mr. McManus, Mr. Borden, and Ms. Rose. Scoring range 1-6. Deadline is Jan 15. Students can email or mail their essays into us by then.

Rob Schwartz: I can offer you a 15-student course here on the Zoo campus for \$399 if you want. Just let me know. Includes 24hrs of instructions and 3 proctored tests on Sat mornings, just like the regular SAT. We are flexible to a fault. Whatever you want and need.

Linda: Can parents provide security for campus if we do this at night?

Lee: I can provide that, no problem.

Rob: Instructors are the same, everyone is the same.

Linda: (Hands out scholarship applications)

Rob: We are for-profit. But we give away more philanthropically than any other company. Is there anything else we can give you? Would you like a free SAT? Free Subject Test? Free ACT? Yes, we can. You can use it for fundraising if you like. Scored exactly the same, for as many kids as you want.

Linda: Thank you! And now the Zoo website: worked on by parents Leonard Daly, Cherilyn Kamo and Mr. Owsley. Would Vicki (Michele's daughter) like to write a section for the web describing what the Zoo experience is like? We could use it like a marketing tool, selling the school to 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents.

Leonard: I would like someone to describe the Zoo Crew, after finals is fine.

Jessica: I can do that.

Linda: Send it to [leonard.daly@realism.com](mailto:leonard.daly@realism.com)

Leonard: If anyone has pictures of kids, animals at the Zoo, whatever; if they have signed releases, please give them to me. Winter Ball, Career Day, Earth Day, etc.

Lee: Photos are important and we need to change things in the brochure. We are out of the brochures and are printing new ones so we can add new pictures too. I have to find out how much it would cost to change photos. Need to change the list of courses and the website address. Cannot use zoomagnet.edu. That is illegal. We will be zoomagnet.net. I am not quite ready, but need to find out what the cost of changing the website.

Linda: Are you doing more outreach?

Lee: No we are done. There was a good turnout on Saturday at our annual Open House for new students. We are sometimes the only school that shows up at these open houses at the middle schools.

Bruce: Freddy Parrish. Valley Gateway 33<sup>rd</sup> District. Meeting about forming a PTA at NHHS, 10am on Saturday, if anyone is interested.

Lee: I need a parent representative for school site council meeting on TU December 19, 4pm.

Marcia: School Governance Council (NHHS). Their main topic of late is the transitioning into small learning communities, which does not really affect us, since we already are a small learning community. There is a lot of tension about it at NHHS, like who is going to leave, who will stay, and trying to predict student enrollment numbers. Things are in flux. Mr. Rawls is leaving in January. Mr. Rodriguez is a good replacement.

Also there is discussion about returning to a traditional calendar vs. a track calendar – decision should be made by February. There is resistance. The administration says it needs a lead time of 6 months, so if the issue is not decided by February, it won't happen this year.

Lee: Lots of personnel turnover. Thanks to Bruce for getting us into LA Shares.

Bruce: We got lots of good stuff. There is a big warehouse out on Riverside Dr. stuffed with school supplies. Now that we are enrolled, we can go about three times/yr.

Lee: Got binders, file folders, hundreds of dollars of supplies.

Nancy: Silent Auction. Everyone paid except for one teacher and we'll be on top of that. There is one fitness certificate that came in late for 10 Spinning sessions at a gym on Lankershim, if anyone is interested in that.

Bruce: I still have scripts with celebrity signatures if you want to use them. You can post them on eBay. Need someone to sell them on their account.

Leslie: You can bring them to the eBay store, and they will sell it for you. Of course they take a cut of the profit.

## **COUNSELOR 'S REPORT**

Alicia Rojas [aer9201@lausd.k12.ca.us](mailto:aer9201@lausd.k12.ca.us) W 323.660.0165  
Not in attendance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Linda introduces the guest speaker from Princeton Review:

Rob Schwartz

818.784.3300

[rschwartz@review.com](mailto:rschwartz@review.com)

Please pick up all the fliers on the table, because I will not have time to review everything tonight. We will discuss the big issues first, then specific examples of SAT or ACT test.

If you have kids in 9<sup>th</sup> no problem, just relax.

10<sup>th</sup> graders – start thinking about what you need to do

11<sup>th</sup> graders – ditto

Differences between big universities and smaller liberal arts colleges:

What is the value that they may assign to each component? What are they looking for?

Small schools make up the bulk of the schools in the US but most people are not aware of them.

There are three evaluation components: grades; personal issues/values; test scores (SAT mostly in CA).

(See pie charts)

Each application at UCLA for example gets viewed in about 5-8minutes. Get the application done on time and be sure it is complete or it will wind up in the trash.

In general, small schools take more of a personal interest in applications than the larger schools.

They are all looking for what you are going to bring to the school that adds character to that school.

Large school: most important thing is grades, and two matter the most: 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, since they don't see the 12<sup>th</sup> grades and not so interested in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Next in importance are test scores. I don't know why they are so important except that at UCLA there were 42,000 applications last yr, and with 8min each, that is still lots of time.

Test scores give students a level playing field: how did you do, how well can you fill in bubbles, etc.

Then last in importance is what kind of a person are you? As a grad of UCLA you are a bit of a number to them and you need to make yourself special to them. But it is an important part of the process to find what kind of school is best for your child.

Testing Timeline brochure – READ THIS

For UC need SAT, 2 Subject tests, completed all the coursework, AP, Honors, Pace, magnet, etc.

SAT and ACT specifically: What is the difference?

ACT is the most popular test in the Midwest and the South. The ACT is closer to an intelligence test than the SAT, which is a reasoning test. You do not teach it in the average HS curriculum.

ACT asks straight forward simple questions and requires few skills.

SAT is a totally different animal, so let's talk about the SAT because it is the most familiar to us.

What are you being tested on in the SAT? Math, Reading and Writing. Scored 200-800 for a total of 2400 for a perfect score.

Essay is graded by 2 graders, so 2 scores are added together to get the mean score.

1/3 of the test is Math.

ACT in comparison has how many sections? Writing is optional so there are really 4 sections: Math, Reading, Science, and Writing, each scored 1-36 and total score is 1-36

1/4 is Math. Science is really reading comprehension, not science. Perception vs.

Reality. And this is an important distinction. It is how well you understand the question and can use the information given to you, not how well you know science.

If you are good at reading and writing, you will do well in the Science section.

PRA - Princeton Review Assessment: It is free and is a 3-4 hour test. Mixes up questions from SAT and ACT so the score can tell a student how they would do on the SAT and on the ACT too.

All schools will accept either and/or both.

SAT favors math if you are good at that.

Parent: when should a student take the PRA?

Rob Schwartz: Anytime in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or early 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

I can send you test, you can proctor it, and mail it back to us and we can provide scores and will set up and one-on-one appointment if you like.

The SAT is offered 7 times per year; the ACT is offered 6 times, but most tests are taken twice.

You want to be far advanced in your curriculum for the Subject Tests, and by 11<sup>th</sup> grade you will have learned enough to take the SAT.

The math in the SAT goes up thru Algebra II – but it is about reasoning, not curriculum.

AP tests are in May, and must be studied for – this is critical. Try to get a score of 4 or 5 on them.

June is Subject Test time and this is the best time to take it.

Always take AP first, then Subject Test. The AP test prepares you for taking the Subject Test. The Subject Tests for math include Math 1 and Math 2 but don't take Math 1 because UC does not accept it.

Other Subject Tests include: English Literature, US History, and World History – careful of World History, because it does not jive with AP World History.

Do not take foreign language Subject Test unless you speak it at home or are in level 4 language in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Take World History AP in summer between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

Is guessing a good thing on the ACT? Yes, you are not penalized for wrong answers. Ditto for SAT? Sometimes yes, sometimes no. If you cannot eliminate a single answer, then leave it blank.

1. Process of elimination is critical. Need it to succeed in the SAT.

We tell our students: Don't find the right answer; find the wrong ones.

Number 1 questions should be the easiest; middle numbers should be easier than the hardest section which is at the end.

2. Time management is the second biggest issue - Rushing at the end costs you points because the questions are the hardest ones, so don't waste your time on them! They are trying to FOOL you and most kids fall for it.

If you are near the score needed for your college (within 150 pts.) you can take an abbreviated test prep course. There are about 4-5 courses in this region and you won't need that much practice.

If you are already at the score needed, do not even bother to take a test prep course. Just buy a book: "Beating the SAT" is good, or go to a Cal State and relax. Or go to College Board.com and buy a sample test book there. It will get you a 50-60 pt increase.

But it is really all about hard work on the kids' part. They need to WANT to do the work required in the test prep courses. It doesn't happen by osmosis. And it is a lot of work.

Lee: Time management and test taking strategies can increase a score by 100 pts easy.

Choosing a school: Please consult the blue sheet. It is far more important that you fit into the campus you are attending than the prestige factor. This theory is good for undergraduates, but not for graduate students.

Answer the questions and find the fit.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Next meeting will be W March 14 at 6:30pm.**