

SOUTH PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL
PTSA TIGER PAWS
Principal's Message
September 12, 2018

As I write this message, we have just experienced our annual Club Rush. I was heartened to see so many students seeking involvement and excited to see what their club options are. This year, there are over ninety clubs looking for members. They cover a wide range of interests, and there really is at least one club for everyone. There are service clubs such as Key Club, Tassel, and Ninios del Lago (supporting Guatemalan youth), and the Legumes Society (providing canned goods to the homeless). Students developed co-curricular clubs like those for the sciences, drama, photo, and art. Some clubs were built around common interests like Western Philosophy that will hold open forums for discussions, Reel Stories feminist filmmaking club, and the Anime Club. In talking with students who were signing up, most seemed quite focused on certain choices, and a few came to shop around and learn more about the clubs. In the case of Club Rush, long lines were a good thing! As we promote to our students, it is very important to broaden one's high school experience by including activities that enhance their academic foundation. It is a great way to meet new friends, develop passions, and expand horizons.

At Back to School Night, I talked about people identifying values and aspirations about the most important things in life. That part of my message was based on a blog entry by Dr. Mary Hofstedt called "And Most of All – Be Kind." I concluded by suggesting that we all keep the conversation alive with our kids about what we care most deeply about and what we value. Here's another meaningful conversation topic, this time based upon part of a workshop called "The Leader in Me" in which our entire District staff participated before the first day of school. In the workshop, the presenter asked our groups of four to each share one positive attribute we observed in the other three. From the four comments shared, we each chose one of our own identified attributes as one we would like to purposefully enhance. It was uplifting and eye-opening to hear others' observations, and it led to a good personal growth opportunity.

On September 14 and 15, our Challenge Success Leadership team that consists of parents, faculty, students, and administrators is making a trip to Stanford to attend informational sessions and further our plans for our site's work. Parent involvement is our next big outreach effort, so please be on the alert for more information after our trip to Palo Alto.

As I have been sharing lots of information with you of late, I will keep this message brief, as I end with a few reminders: Please check your Fridge-Friendly calendar for upcoming events. There are many evening events for parents in the near future. For athletic competition information, our website has complete schedules and directions. As always, I can be reached at janderson@spusd.net.