



# AHS Parent Newsletter: Friday, Oct. 6

## Principal's Message

Students will have a long weekend with no school on Monday. Teachers will spend Monday in professional development working on projects and trainings intended to improve the educational experience for students.

### Homecoming Dance

We had 600 students at last Saturday's Homecoming dance. Throughout the night we lost about 150 prior to the end of the dance of students who found that the night was just not for them. The other 450 or so seemed to have a fun time with the face painting, the picture and video opportunities, the games, and the "dancing" that went on for hours. Dancing for most of our students is comprised of getting in tight circle and jumping up and down with phones out and lifted in the hopes of catching something on film. I made my way to the center of the circle about 4-5 times. It was very hot and reminiscent of Dante's lower levels if you know the reference. However, the kids seemed to be having a great time and no malice seemed to be happening. Next year, we need to remind ourselves to have more seating for students who want to take a load off. Otherwise, a very successful gathering for the kids. Thank you to all the parents who came out and helped chaperone.

### End of the Quarter

Next week is the last week of the quarter. That means that after next Friday, every teacher will be assessing and updating their grade books and recording grades in AERIES. The added component to this grading cycle is that, for some, it will determine eligibility for the start of winter season sports. Check-in with your child and see if what they still need to submit work and what make-up work they may be able to do to allow them to earn a grade that best represents their progress in the course. Grades will be posted at the end of the following week, and I will send you a note letting you know when you can view those. Reminder that when the grade is questionable you should always start your questions with your students. Interestingly enough, data shows that there is not a teacher at AHS where their grades indicate a systemic problem. Don't get me wrong, we can all improve but when we review grades, we always find way more students from each demographic or focus group that fall on the side of earning grades of A and B than we see of those earning Ds and/or Fs. What I mean by this is only that a conversation with the student should come first in trying to make a plan to improve grades and then you can check-in with the teacher. It's vital that we don't leave the learner out when it comes to seeking improvement.

### Security Drill

Yesterday, we had a school lockdown drill. These drills are sadly necessary and let students know what to do in the event of danger present on campus. Students will benefit if they listen to the adult in the time of a crisis, but ultimately, students also have to be ready to do what ever is

needed to not increase the danger for themselves and others and to keep themselves safe. If this means that running off campus is the best course of action, and they know that the danger is on the other side of campus then we counsel that they do so. We stress that students should hide, run and, when left with no other options, fight. We hope that these drills never get truly tested but we hold them just the same so as to be prepared. Yesterday's drill went well. We did need to speak to a few teachers about chatter heard from their room. In the event of an actual incident, we hope that a locked door and silence will move an assailant on. If possible, speak to your child about why this is the reasoning. Of course, getting 1800+ students to be silent is like herding cats.

### **Athletic Events**

In the weeks past, I had made mention of our volleyball, football and flag football seasons and I didn't want to not make mention of some of our other fall sports seasons as they start to wrap-up league in the next 3-4 weeks. Women's golf has successfully dominated the league with a record of 7-1. Their league championship is scheduled for Monday, October 16. Earlier this week, women's water polo was 2-0 in league with an overall record of 13 – 3 thus far. Not to be out done, men's water polo was also 2-0 in league play with an overall of 10-3. Women's tennis defeated Heritage, Northgate, and Berkeley to win the consolation round at the James Logan tournament and then turned around and beat Berkeley in a league match 7-0. Cheer has been consistently performing at a number of games and rallies. Unfortunately, I have little to report for cross county as their only league meet thus far was cancelled due to poor air quality. I will report on them in a future weekly letter. Overall, fall sports are going extremely well and, I hope-that all student athletes are having a good experience. Caution to winter sport athletes to monitor your grades, tardies, and attendance. We are strictly monitoring all three this year and have tried to be very proactive in letting students and parents know what could render them ineligible.

### **October is AHS PTSA Membership and Direct Donation Drive Month!**

**THANK YOU** to the 364 new and returning parents, students, teachers, and staff who have already signed up or renewed their PTSA membership at the beginning of the school year. Special thanks to the many families who made generous donations and tapped into their companies' matching gifts. This year, we have set a membership goal of **510 members**, representing less than a third of the student population. **We still need 146 people to [JOIN & DONATE](#) this month.** If you haven't had a chance to join and/or donate yet, we encourage you to do so.

**Your membership supports our school's PTSA**, the local Alameda PTAC, and regional and national PTA in advocating for our students. More importantly, it gives you a voice in voting on important issues like how we spend money raised through donations at the school.

**Your donation to AHS** helps fund club grants, link crew, science equipment, field trips, staff education, student groups and activities, curriculum essentials, reading books, staff appreciation events, grad night, first aid kits, software, computers and many, many other items requested by teachers and staff. The PTSA also hosts student-focused speakers and career panels, and advocates for student and school issues.

This year, the Classroom and School Enrichment Committee (formerly the Ways and Means Committee) received requests in excess of our budget, so some teachers and staff may be denied funding for classroom necessities such as food/snacks for students; supplemental curricular materials/subscriptions; books; equipment such as scientific calculators, computer speakers, mics,

etc. We would love to be able to honor all those requests and offer more funding in the spring, as has been done in past years. Your donation will go a long way to cover those costs.

We suggest a donation of \$100 per family but any amount is appreciated.

[JOIN & DONATE](#) in one place online. You may also fill out a printed Membership & Donation Form at the school office. Questions: contact Neveen Acero, VP Membership at [membership@alamedaptsa.org](mailto:membership@alamedaptsa.org)

## **PSAT**

OK, sign-ups for next week's PSAT are closed. We have 198 students who will test and I will be sending Parent Square emails home this week with information. The testing window will be from 8:30 – 11:30 with the first 30 minutes scheduled for signing in. Remember, all students need to bring their charged Chromebook and their school ID. If your child signed-up for the test, keep an eye out daily for emails to come through Parent Square. Also, because we had to order the test in advance, there are no cash back opportunities should your child not take the test. Keep them healthy this week so they are ready to go next Saturday, October 14. All testing rooms will be in the C-building so all testers can start in the Kofman lobby to see their room assignments.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may email me at [rithurnburn@alamedaunified.org](mailto:rithurnburn@alamedaunified.org) or you can call the school at (510) 337 – 7022 and I will try to address them.

Sincerely,  
Robert Ithurburn  
Hornet Pride!



# ALAMEDA HIGH SCHOOL



## Saturday, October 7

TBD	Cross Country All Levels Invitational	Clovis
4:30pm	Men's Football JV vs Piedmont	Thompson Field
7:00pm	Men's Football Varsity vs Piedmont	Thompson Field

## Monday, October 9

All Day Professional Development Day-No Students

## Tuesday, October 10

<i>SMART</i>	<i>Connecticut College</i>	<b>Period 0,1,2,5,smart,6</b>
4:00pm	Women's Water Polo JV vs O'Dowd	College Career Center
4:30pm	Women's Volleyball Freshman vs Albany	Mills College
5:45pm	Women's Volleyball JV vs Albany	Albany HS
5:45pm	Men's Water Polo Varsity vs O'Dowd	Albany HS
6:45pm	Women's Water Polo Varsity VS O'Dowd	Mills College
6:45pm	Men's Water Polo JV vs O'Dowd	Mills College
7:00pm	Women's Volleyball Varsity vs Albany	Albany HS

## Wednesday, October 11

2:40pm	<i>University of Michigan</i>	<b>Periods 0,1,3,4,6</b>
3:30pm	Women's Golf All Levels vs San Leandro	College Career Center
3:30pm	Women's Tennis All Levels vs Castro Valley	Chuck Corica GC
3:30pm	Women's Tennis JV vs Castro Valley	AHS Tennis Courts
4:30pm	Cross Country All Levels	Castro Valley HS
		Hayward HS

## Thursday, October 12

<i>SMART</i>	<i>University of Oregon</i>	<b>Periods 0,2,3,4,smart,5</b>
4:30pm	Women's Volleyball Freshman vs O'Dowd	College Career Center
5:00pm	Men's Water Polo JV VS Piedmont	AHS New Gym
5:30pm	Women's Volleyball JV vs O'Dowd	Laney College
5:45pm	Men's Water Polo Varsity vs Piedmont	AHS New Gym
5:30pm	Women's Volleyball Varsity vs Encinal	Laney College
6:30pm	Women's Flag Football vs Encinal	Encinal Gym
6:45pm	Women's Water Polo Varsity vs Piedmont	Thompson Field
7:30pm	Women's Water Polo JV vs Piedmont	Laney College
		Laney College

## Friday, October 13

3:30pm	Women's Tennis All Levels vs O'Dowd	<b>Periods 0-6</b>
3:30pm	Women's Tennis JV vs O'Dowd	AHS Tennis Courts
4:00pm	Football Varsity vs Arroyo	Merritt College
4:30pm	Women's Volleyball Freshman vs Piedmont	Arroyo HS
5:30pm	Women's Volleyball JV vs Piedmont	Piedmont HS Binks Gym
6:30pm	Women's Volleyball Varsity vs Piedmont	Piedmont HS Binks Gym
		Piedmont HS Binks Gym