



The Screaming Eagle

SENECA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

- An International Baccalaureate School

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRINCIPAL, Marc Cohen . . .

Prom has come and gone, and our seniors will soon cross the stage at D.A.R. Constitution Hall with newly minted Maryland State High School Diplomas. As we wrap things up for our underclassmen as well, I'd like to take a moment to congratulate our students, staff, and parents for an outstanding school year. This year has been a historic one in many ways. We saw an increase of 84 points in our average SAT scores. This is the largest increase of any school in Montgomery County. Even though we have never before even had a finalist for the highly competitive POSSE scholarships, this year we had two students win these full rides to college. Our National Honor Society inducted the largest class of students in Seneca Valley history last month, and our senior class earned nearly 25% more scholarship money than last year's graduating class and nearly 50% more than the class of 2010.

As our students go off for the summer, there are some things that they can do to help themselves avoid the "summer slide" and position themselves for a positive start to the 2012-2013 school year. I encourage your kids to consider the following ideas as they make plans for the summer months.

1. *Make a Difference:* Community service is always a valuable endeavor, and the summer is a wonderful time to make a difference in your community.

Continues on page 11.

A WORD FROM OUR PTSA PRESIDENT, Juan Johnson . . .

The end of another school year marks the end of a very exciting year for our students. For me, this is the end of my PTA journey. My youngest daughter is graduating, and it is time for me to move on, too. She will go on to college, and I'll have to find other causes to advocate for. My family has been part of SVHS for the past 13 years; all four of my children are SVHS alumni. I have served on the board of the PTSA for most of these years. But it is time for a new group of parent leaders to shepherd SVHS and the PTSA into a bright future and, hopefully, soon a new building. I've worked with five principals at SVHS, and I know that SVHS is in good hands.

For those parents of seniors . . . congratulations, you and your student have made it! It may have come easy for some or a struggle for others, but it is an accomplishment **PTSA**[®] worth noting. Through all the ups and downs, good times and bad, your student has achieved this first milestone in his or her life. I know you are proud of your student, just as I am of my daughter.

For those of you with returning students, please continue to support SVHS and the PTSA as you help your students work toward excellence in all that they do. The PTSA is one way parents help shape the culture of the school. The PTSA is dedicated to excellence and advocates for SVHS to make sure every student has the resources he or she needs to succeed. Your support of the PTSA strengthens our voice and makes a difference.

As my term as president and MCCPTA area vice president ends, we find the PTSA and cluster in good hands. Kevin David, our immediate past cluster coordinator, has been elected area vice president. Kevin is a fierce advocate for SVHS and the feeder schools and will continue to push for additions at the elementary schools and the new building here at SVHS. Kevin also is keenly aware that the schools need rigorous programs to prepare the students for IB and AP classes. He will continue his pursuit of the middle-years program for MLK MS and will ensure full funding for our academies, IB, AP, and other programs.

Continues on page 4.

SVHS HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT
May 25	Final Day for Seniors
May 30	Underclass Awards Ceremony, lunchtime
June 1	Locker Clean-Out Deadline for Submission of SSL Hours
June 4	Final Exam Review Day
June 5	Final Exams, Periods 1 and 2 Graduation Rehearsal, 7:30 am Senior Picnic, Bohrer Park, 12-4 pm
June 6	Final Exams, Periods 3 and 4
June 7	Graduation, DAR Constitution Hall, 10 am No School for Students
June 8	Final Exams, Periods 5 and 7
June 11	Final Exams, Period 7, Makeup, and HS Plus
June 12	Final Day of School Makeup Final Exams 9 th Grade Orientation, 7:30 am
June 13	PTSA Meeting, 7:00 pm
August 11	Fall Sports Tryouts Begin
August 27	First Day of School for Students



CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2012!!!

You're almost there . . .

There are still some last-minute reminders before the BIG DAY on June 7!

- ◆ Graduation Rehearsal: June 5, 7:30-11:30 am (or until we get it right!)
 - ◇ A light breakfast will be served in the cafeteria.
 - ◇ Tickets and cap and gown distribution will immediately follow rehearsal. Please note, caps and gowns WILL NOT be issued to any student who owes an obligation!!
- ◆ Senior Picnic: June 5, noon - 4 pm, Bohrer Park
 - ◇ Bring or wear swim attire.
 - ◇ Permission slips must be submitted by May 31 in order to attend. They can be dropped off in room 239.
 - ◇ Students must arrange their own transportation to and from the event.
 - ◇ We are in need of water/canned soda, chips, and pretzels. If you are willing to contribute, please drop off LABELED donations in the main office.
- ◆ Graduation: June 7, 10 am, DAR Constitution Hall
 - ◇ Graduates must arrive no later than 9 am.
 - ◇ Buses will leave SVHS no later than 7:30. They will not wait for latecomers.

Grade-Level News

CLASS of 2013

It is hard to believe, but the Class of 2013 is now looking ahead to next fall and their senior year! Where did the time go? They will jump right into "All Things Senior" in June with senior pictures. The first dates for senior pictures will be on Friday, June 22, and Monday, June 25, 2012. Blanton Photographers will mail notices to prospective seniors of their scheduled appointment time in the next few weeks. Please notify Blanton to reschedule if you can't make the appointment time. The other scheduled senior picture days are August 21 and October 10. Please take care of this in June if at all possible. The sooner the better!

Parents or guardians of seniors should also plan to attend a senior parent meeting on Back to School Night on September 6 at 6:00 in the auditorium. Another date to circle is Homecoming 2012 which will be quite early next year. Students should start looking forward to the game on September 14, 2012, and the dance on September 15, 2012. I hope to have a list of many more important dates distributed to the Class of 2013 members before the end of the year.

Please make sure that during the summer your student continues to work on the mandatory 75 SSL hours necessary for graduation, and please have your student turn in the mandatory paperwork in a timely manner.

Finally, senior year is fun, but it can be expensive. Encourage your student to get a job if at all possible this summer and to start saving some money for the yearbook, graduation package (cap and gown, etc), homecoming, and prom. It all adds up quickly!

This is the fourth time in five years I have sponsored the senior class, so I know that it will be an exciting year and the time will go very quickly. If you should need to contact me for any reason, please feel free to send an email at Leeann_wolfe@mcpsmd.org. I will check my email throughout the summer.

Enjoy the summer.

More class news can be found on page 7.

AFTER PROM

Lisa Smith

Nine months of meetings, planning, and fundraising finally came to an end May 20 when our after prom event FINALLY arrived. It was a fun night with over 260 students attending. Eighty-five percent of the students who went to prom attended after prom, and 40% stayed until 5 am.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's event, starting with the chaperons for the evening: Audrey Cherry, Linda McCabe, Julie Lucas, Kim and Kyle Donohue, Tom Smith, Sue Murphy, Lynn Wilson, and Brian Beaubien . . . thank you for staying awake and spending the evening with me! More thanks to the staff who came in after the prom and spent a few hours bowling with us.

Special thanks to Marc Cohen, who endured listening to my many gripes and worries throughout the year, and LeeAnn Wolfe, who did an incredible job with the prom and helped me get the word out about the event to the students.

BUT the most important people I have to thank are those who donated to the cause. Had it not been for your generosity, we would never have been able to hold this event. In that category is also 300 Shady Grove Bowling who did everything they could to help us make this year the success it was. Please remember them when you are looking for a fun way to spend an evening.

And last but not least, today we can all be thankful that our 284 students who attended prom made it home safe and sound.

SAVE THE DATE: After Prom 2013 . . . May 19, midnight to 5 am!!!!

One of the most important components used by colleges in making admissions decisions is the college entrance exam. There are two options for students, and deciding which test your child should take is an important step. The SAT, which is administered by The College Board, is a critical thinking, problem-solving, and aptitude exam, testing critical reasoning and mathematics with a required writing portion. The ACT is more curriculum based, testing a student's ability in English, math, reading, and science. Determining when your child should test is critical. Some of the differences between the tests include:

- ◆ ACT includes a science reasoning portion, not included on SAT.
- ◆ ACT includes trigonometry, while SAT only goes up through Algebra II.
- ◆ SAT tests much more high-level vocabulary than ACT.
- ◆ SAT is not entirely multiple choice but includes a mandatory writing section. On ACT, the writing section is optional.
- ◆ SAT has a guessing penalty; the ACT does not.
- ◆ SAT has three sections each worth 800 points for a total of 2,400 possible points; the ACT scores range from 1-36 with one composite score and separate sub-scores for each content area.
- ◆ SAT is given in October, November, December, January, March, May and June, whereas ACT is given in September, October, December, February, April, and June.
- ◆ SAT costs \$47. ACT costs \$34 without the writing and \$49.50 with writing.

If your child is entering his or her junior year, this summer is an excellent time to start studying! If your child takes a private preparation class or a college test preparation class at SVHS, the college entrance exam should be taken immediately following the completion of the course. If your student is doing the preparation on his or her own - and preparation is a key to success on these exams - Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Seneca Valley High School have some online resources for your student to practice. Those sites include Triumph College Admissions Online Study Guide for SAT and ACT, Number2.com, and the Testing & Education Reference Center site.

Fall Tests and Registration Deadlines:

SAT Date

October 6, 2012
November 3, 2012
December 1, 2012

Registration Deadline

September 7, 2012
October 5, 2012
November 2, 2012

ACT Date

September 8, 2012
October 27, 2012
December 8, 2012

Registration Deadline

August 17, 2012
September 21, 2012
November 2, 2012

SAT/ACT

ACADEMIES

On **March 8** over 100 speakers presented to the student body of SVHS for the 9th Annual Career Day. Guest speakers included filmmakers, chefs, lawyers, CEOs, bankers, archeologists, historians, social workers, educators, engineers, epidemiologists, journalists, physicists, and many more. This event enables students to engage with those in various professions and to link academics with real world experiences.

On **March 22** over 50 juniors in the Academies of Science, Information Technology, Human Services, and Arts and Media Studies journeyed to the Universities at Shady Grove for the 11th Annual "Young Professionals Conference." Students participated in engaging workshops conducted by leaders from the professional communities, learned valuable skills for success from experts, networked with business professionals, and experienced the "Style for Success."

On **April 19 and 20** over 150 seniors representing SVHS's five Career Academies presented their capstones which are the culminating experience in their chosen pathways. The event was attended by staff, academic classes, parents, and MCPS county officials. An awards ceremony and reception followed the presentations.

On **May 11** the Academy of Arts and Media Studies presented two-time Academy Award Winner Russell Williams (sound production). Below is a list of films Mr. Williams has worked on:



- Dances with Wolves*, director, Kevin Costner (Oscar)
- Glory* with Denzel Washington, Morgan Freeman (Oscar)
- Field of Dreams* with Kevin Costner
- Sum of all Fears* with Morgan Freeman and Ben Affleck
- Jungle Fever* by Spike Lee
- Rules of Engagement* with Sam Jackson

On **May 16** seniors in the Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) were honored at the National Academy Foundation graduation ceremony. Completion of the AOIT requirements included paid and unpaid internships and an accumulated 12 college courses at Montgomery College among the nine seniors. Bradley Boccuzzi was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from Lockheed Martin Corporation. Bradley served this year as president of Seneca Valley AOIT; Dayyan Khan, Vice-President; Leonardo Brito, Treasurer; and Vanessa Liendo, Secretary.



Juan Johnson continued from page 1.

Jeri Crist, immediate past president, McAuliffe ES PTA, has stepped up to be a cluster coordinator this year. Jeri just finished her second term as PTA president and won the MCCPTA President of the Year award. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions made by PTA presidents across Montgomery County. Jeri's unique abilities to organize and rally support will be very useful as the cluster pursues the modernization at SVHS and additions at the elementary schools. Jeri has a long-term outlook and will need your support over the years as she works to keep high-quality programs in the cluster.

Julie Lucas has been elected as our new PTSA president. Julie is a long-time cluster advocate and is currently a cluster coordinator. Julie has served as president at the middle and elementary school levels. Julie's long-term investment in the cluster positions her perfectly to lead the charge to get the resources that SVHS needs and deserves. Julie has a capable and enthusiastic group of officers who will work diligently for the betterment of SVHS and to help the students achieve excellence in all that they do.

So, as the sun sets on my family's time at SVHS, I hope I have made a positive difference that improved SVHS. Thank you to all the administrators and staff whom I have worked with over the years. I believe our efforts to make SVHS a better educational institution have borne fruit. Thank you to all the PTSA board members who have shown confidence in me over the years. And thank you, the parents, for allowing me to represent you over the years.

I know there are great things in the future for SVHS.

SAFETY FIRST!

When dropping your student off, please obey all traffic signs. Throughout this newsletter, you will find the signs posted on Crystal Rock Drive to keep the flow of traffic moving for the safety of everyone, pedestrians and students alike. To better inform you, we've checked with the 5th police district on fines for these violations and have included them with each picture.



GETTING TO KNOW . . .

Connecting
names & faces!

For this edition, we move down to the basement! First, we meet **Suzan Hernandez**, the senior naval science instructor of our NJROTC program. Commander Hernandez graduated from Ashland University in Ohio where she earned her Bachelor of Science in physical education K-12. Here are some things she chose to share with us.



Share your first impression of Seneca: It was my first visit to SVHS and my fourth interview for an NJROTC position in the Maryland/Virginia area over the past two months. At the conclusion of the interview, I asked when I would be notified the NJROTC position would be filled. I was told it would be "soon," so I expected to wait a couple days for an answer as I had following other interviews. Before I had driven one block, my cell phone rang. I pulled over and was offered the NJROTC position! I immediately knew this was the place to be and all the hard work of interviewing and networking paid off.

Tell us about your family: I am the youngest of three. My older brother lives in my hometown of Cleveland, and my older sister is a commander in the U.S. Navy. Mother's side of the family is Italian, and Father's side is Puerto Rican. I have visited Puerto Rico a few times and hope to visit Italy some day.

What is the farthest you've been from home? The farthest away from home is when I was stationed in Japan from 1994-1996. The second farthest was my tour in Keflavik, Iceland, in 1989-90. You truly appreciate home, as well as the uniqueness of other cultures.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would do? Definitely buy a house!

What would you name the autobiography of your life? I'd name it *See the World and Savor All That It Offers*.

Continues on page 13.

On the other side of the basement, **Mr. Mike Rutland** is busy teaching physical education and also serves as the resource teacher for art, music, ROTC, and PE. Mr. Rutland received his degree in physical education at the University of Maryland, College Park.



Share a funny memory about Seneca: There was a funny thing that just happened this year in a class mixed with SCB (School/Community Based) Adapted PE students and volleyball students. One of the SCB students pulled a badminton pole out of the floor, snuck up behind me, and poked me in the backside. The girls in the volleyball game tried to warn me, but I ducked thinking a ball was headed my way. I guess that made it even funnier. The girls hit the floor laughing with tears in their eyes for about three minutes. I love that class!

Share about your family: I am married and live in the Catoclin Mountains, north of Frederick, on a little farm. I currently have four horses, a house cat, and 12 barn cats. We had as many as 9 horses but have scaled them back recently because of the economy. My wife and I trail ride just about every weekend. I have two daughters, ages 22 and 25. They are both social workers. One of them is also the varsity lacrosse coach at Catoclin High School.

What is your least favorite thing about yourself? I hate getting older and that I am not as agile as I once was.

What is the farthest you've been from home? I spent ten days in Switzerland, Germany, and Austria skiing and sight-seeing.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would do? If I won the lottery, I would retire and start up a horse facility for training, riding . . .

Continues on page 13.

CLUB NEWS

YEARBOOK

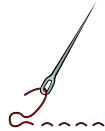
We would like to thank all of our parents and supporters for a successful year in the production of *The Aquilian 2012*. There are still a few copies available for purchase at \$90. We also have copies of previous yearbooks at discount prices. For further information, please contact Ms. Greenway at Barbara_Greenway@mcpsmd.org.

SEW COOL

Sew Cool is finished for the 2012 school year and will start again in September.

On May 15 Sew Cool gave seven red, white, and blue quilts they had been making to the Yellow Ribbon Fund. The quilts will be given to injured returning veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq. Three of the quilts were made by Sew Cool kids last year but could not be donated due to communication problems with a charity. Ashley Keene, the representative from the Yellow Ribbon Fund, explained what would be done with the quilts and how hard this is on the soldiers. It was educational and heartbreaking.

Thanks to everyone who donated supplies, machines, thread, etc. We appreciate and use it! We look forward to next year!



Violation of either of these comes with a \$60 ticket. Doubled during the hours of 6:45 am — 3:00 pm, as per the sign pictured on page 4, that comes out to a whopping \$120!



The celebrations have started, and SADD would like to remind everyone to be safe during this exciting time. Seneca had a very successful prom, and the Prom Promise speaker was exceptional. Debbie Yohn from Positive Alternatives to Dangerous and Destructive Decisions (<http://paddd.com>) came to present information about reckless driving and the dangers it presents. Debbie also brought with her Judy Keressig who spoke about her own experiences with drunk and drugged driving. Ms. Keressig shared how she once thought she was invincible, but after a serious accident where

she drove drunk and did not wear her seatbelt which resulted in traumatic brain injury, she realizes no one is immune from poor decisions. Again, we would like to thank PADD for their support and invite you to "like" them on Facebook.

If you would like information about the latest research or answers to questions about drinking, drugs, and driving, SADD invites you to check out ParentTeenMatters.org. ParentTeen Matters is funded by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in partnership with SADD and provides a variety of information that parents may find helpful in talking with their teens.

SADD would like to thank everyone for their support this year and remind you that poor decision-making is not just driving drunk. Please buckle up, don't drive sleepy, and slow down.

We hope you have a safe and happy summer, and congratulations to the class of 2012 graduates.

ATHLETICS

BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Hugo Zapata, and I am the new Seneca Valley High School boys' varsity soccer coach for the 2012-13 school year. This coming season we're making some major changes to our program to give us the best chance of success. We have already started our workouts and will continue throughout the summer. I want to invite all parents to be a part of our team by encouraging the students to stay in shape over the summer and be ready for tryouts which begin August 11. As a reminder, students will require a physical exam and must turn in completed documentation (which can be found in the main office or at montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/senecavalleyhs/athleticsframeset.htm). Students will not be allowed to try out without a physical exam, so I encourage everyone to get their exams done early over the summer.

You can contact me at hugozapata080479@verizon.net. I am really excited to be a part of the Seneca Valley family and can't wait for the season to begin.

CHEERLEADING



Tryouts for the 2012-13 cheerleading squads will begin on Tuesday, May 29, for both the JV and varsity squads. Anyone with tumbling skills is especially encouraged to attend. Information packets are available in the main office. For questions or more information, contact Lynn Ellis, varsity cheer coach, at svhscheerleading@aol.com.

CLASS of 2015

Onetime Donation Fundraiser! \$20.15!

Onetime donation instead of four years of fundraising participation!

Alternative to selling/purchasing products you don't need!

Precious personal time is not spent on fundraising events!

Families/friends not pressured to purchase items yearly!

Please consider donating \$20.15 to the class of 2015!

Check made out to SVHS and place in Ms. Nodine's mailbox!

Donation Plan Options:

- ◇ 1 Year Plan: \$20.15
- ◇ 2 Year Plan: \$10.08 and \$10.07
- ◇ 3 Year Plan: \$6.72, \$6.72, and \$6.71
- ◇ 4 Year Plan: \$5.04, \$5.04, \$5.04, and \$5.03

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Congratulations to our newly elected officers for the 2012-2013 school year!

President: Diana Azizyan

VP: Jennifer Lim

Treasurer: Rijaa Shoukat

Secretary: Kara Feidelseit

Historian: Kyle Johnson

Parliamentarian: Sabine Bien-Aime

Liaison: Christopher Truong



This is the most expensive individual ticket at \$90. That means \$180 during those doubled hours! Should making a u-turn result in an accident, the fine goes up to \$130 (or doubled to \$260) and, worst of all, adds three points to your license.

If you would like to receive emails with the latest news, including the daily morning announcements, sign up for the Eagles Bulletin! To join, go to [www.SenecaValleyHighSchool.com](http://www.SenecaValleyHighSchool.com) and click on the link on the homepage.



# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## ART

The SVHS chapter of the National Art Honor Society had their induction celebration on April 24. The following members were inducted: Courtney Conner, Emily Alpaugh, Erin Gerber, Miriam Hameed, Morgan Barnett, Courtney Wrenn, Myrtena Gonzanez, and Thias Costa. As a service project, they are currently working on a painting mural that will be donated to the school.

Three art students have been awarded a scholarship to participate in a high school art class sponsored by The Yellow Barn at Glen Echo. This is approximately an eight-week program designed to give students more experience in composition and painting from observation. In order to be selected, students were required to submit a portfolio of six to eight pieces of art. Those students who were selected for this award are Stephanie Fox, Chrisy Silinas and Ina Senatova.

Our first group of students to take the IB art examination finished up in mid April, exhibiting a beautiful body of art work. These IB art students include Emily Alpaugh, Cristian Hernandez, Ryan Huggins, Maya Massy, Catherine Owens, and Tiana Pluck.

The Spring Art Show held on April 12 and 13 was a huge success, featuring more than 100 students participating in the exhibit.

## NJROTC

On April 19 Master Chief Pineda and 21 NJROTC cadets from our unit (which includes Seneca Valley, Clarksburg, and Northwest High Schools) were handpicked to attend a most impressive Navy Full Honors ceremony honoring the Chief of Naval Operations from the Kingdom of Thailand. Highlights of the trip included the presentation of colors by the Ceremonial Color Guards, the Inspection of Troops, a drill performance by the Navy and Marine Corps Ceremonial Guards, hearing the Navy Band, and witnessing a 21-gun salute. The special treat was getting to tour the personal residence of



Admiral Greenert (Chief of Naval Operations).

Ms. Olivia Hunter, the Naval District Washington coordinator for the event, was very impressed with our cadets and promised to invite

our unit to future events. All of our cadets had a wonderful time while learning about the beautiful and meaningful Naval ceremonies, traditions, and history. They also represented themselves, our unit, their schools, and NJROTC in a professional manner. They received repeated commendations and praise for their military bearing, behavior, conduct, and professionalism. Overall, this was a very memorable experience for our cadets, and we are very proud of them and their accomplishment.

## ESOL

The ESOL Department would like to recognize and congratulate two ESOL teachers, Bill Derge and Joe Bellino, who will retire at the end of this school year. The ESOL students/department had a celebration on May 11 to recognize their tremendous dedication to teaching. Students made cards, decorated the room, provided food and drinks, and sang a song. We wish them both the best and hope they come back to sub!



## LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

On May 18 at our end-of-year celebration for the Black-Eyed Susan readers, we recognized 39 students who helped to select Maryland's Best Book for high school students. County-wide, we had the fourth highest participation rate of all high schools, and we are aiming for even more participation next year. Encourage your child to check out the Library Media Center page on Edline to learn more about this program and to see the list of nominees for next year's award. Summer is a perfect time to get a jump start on the reading list!

This summer the LMC is sponsoring another reading program as part of the Maryland Humanities Council's *One Maryland One Book* program. This year's book is *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway. It is a beautifully written book about hope during war. To participate in the program, students simply read the book, write a reflective essay, and participate in an informal book group discussion when they

*Continues on page 11.*

## COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER



Many colleges are still offering fall admission to entering freshman. Schools such as The University of Mary Washington, Frostburg, and Hood are admitting. If you have not yet decided on where you are attending, take a look at the NACAC space availability website [www.nacacnet.org/space](http://www.nacacnet.org/space). The survey will remain on NACAC's Web site through June 29, 2012. Over the next two months, institutions listed on the survey are asked to update their availability information. Students are advised to contact the colleges directly for the most up-to-date information.

**College Visits:** Summer is a good time to visit campuses, though you will not see as much academic vigor as when school is in session. Plan to revisit the schools you really like in the fall and see if you can go to class or even schedule an overnight visit. Make use of your Family Connection program this summer by investigating the college websites and career programs to find colleges that have your major or areas of interest. In late summer, the list of college admission representatives will begin to post on Family Connections under "College Visits." Representatives visit the College and Career Center and students sign up to hear about the school and ask questions, usually from the person reading their application if they apply. It is a great opportunity to get a first glance at a school which you may not visit soon, while still making contact with the official deciding on your admission!

**Junior Prep:** Juniors should be preparing to take a final SAT or ACT and get their knowledge of college essay writing polished. This summer MCPS high schools will be offering programs throughout the summer on topics such as the application process, essay writing, and the Common Application and how to complete it, so be on the lookout for news updates on your Family Connections account. Information on Family Connections accounts is on the SVHS website.

**Scholarships:** Scholarships are not just for seniors. There are many scholarships for students of all grades, but they won't find you. You need to not only look for them but must apply and submit them if you hope to receive one or several. This year the class of

*Continues in next column.*

## COUNSELING SERVICES

We are looking forward to success for each student as the school year comes to a close. We encourage ALL students to "get involved" with an SSL activity or through personal summer learning such as reading books; visiting colleges; practicing math skills; completing summer assignments; and reviewing PSAT, ACT, or SAT skills. All students have free access to test preparation through the MCPS website. Please visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/highschool/test-prep.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/highschool/test-prep.aspx). In addition, parents will receive a "preschedule" of their child's courses in May and the student schedule in mid August.

Don't forget! Students must earn a certain amount of credits to move from one grade to the next! We would like students to end strong in the fourth quarter. Parents are encouraged to continuously monitor grades on Edline. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the counseling services office.

Lastly, the counseling office is open in the summer; however, it is with limited staff as counselors do not work daily in the summer. Parents of juniors should contact their child's counselor to set up a parent conference to review credits and their senior schedule!!

As always, the counseling services department is here for YOU. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions regarding your child's academic, social, or emotional needs.

SAT information: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

ACT information: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Have a fantastic summer!

2012 received over \$3 million in scholarship and grant awards combined from academic institutions and outside sources. Continue to use the scholarship database on Family Connections, the SVHS College/Career Center website, and the MCPS website.

**Additional Bits:** Don't forget that the College/Career Center, as well as the guidance and registrar's offices are all open during the summer, so make good use of your time. Get started on your applications and college essays and practice for the PSAT/SAT/ACT. On most days, the offices are open 7:00 am to 3:30 pm and closed for lunch from noon to 1:00 pm.

A great resource book is *The Book of Majors* published by CollegeBoard, outlining key occupations and various related fields that interconnect; it might surprise you to see how related some majors are in the real world of work.

### PTSA ELECTIONS

PTSA elections have been held for the 2012-2013 officers. The following have been elected for the upcoming school year:

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| President                       | Julie Lucas  |
| Vice Pres of Educational Issues | Libia Duran  |
| Vice Pres of Administration     | Lisa Smith   |
| Recording Secretary             | Marty Pauley |
| Corresponding Secretary         | OPEN         |
| Treasurer                       | Tom Costa    |

The PTSA needs a great deal of involvement and help on all committees for the upcoming year. Please email Julie Lucas at [lucaspta@yahoo.com](mailto:lucaspta@yahoo.com) or call 301-466-9783 to discuss all the opportunities and how you can help make 2012-2013 a successful year for the students, staff and community of SVHS.

On behalf of the PTSA, I would like to extend a THANK YOU to the current PTSA officers, board members, and volunteers. We recognize all of the effort, dedication, leadership, and care you have given to SVHS. A special thanks to our faithful servants who have come to the end of their service at Seneca Valley: Juan Johnson, Kim Donohue, Linda Koeln, Debbie Matteson, and Sue Murphy . . . thank you for your many years of service throughout your students' school years. Congratulations to you and your graduates!

### SV CLUSTER RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Several schools in the Seneca Valley cluster received recognition and awards for this past year at the annual Presidents and Principals Dinner sponsored by MCCPTA.

Lake Seneca Elementary School, S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School, and Roberto Clemente Middle School were all recognized for growth in PTA/PTSA membership. Congratulations to them! Next year we will strive to have all seven schools on that list.

Our PTSA President, Juan Johnson, received the National PTA Lifetime Achievement Membership for his outstanding dedication over the 19 years he has been involved with the PTAs and PTSAs at all levels. Congratulations Juan, and thank you for all you have done and for always "keeping it all about the kids!" We will miss you next year.

One up-and-coming bright star was nominated - and won - the MCCPTA President of the Year Award. Jeri Crist, President of the S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School PTA, was this year's distinguished winner. Jeri spent the past two years as a president that led by example and was an inspiration to the community and students through her dedication to improvements to the school and continued expansion of programs and events for the families. One great improvement was the conversion of the underutilized center courtyard into a new outdoor learning environment that is used regularly by teachers and students now. Although she will be stepping down at McAuliffe as her term is over, the cluster is going to benefit greatly as Jeri has been elected to serve as a cluster coordinator, helping to provide support and assistance to all of the schools in the cluster for the upcoming year.

Congratulations to all of the schools in the SV cluster for a great year community wide. As cluster coordinators next year, we will continue the rally to keep the modernization of Seneca Valley High School on track and avoid further delays as well as keep other expansion projects at Waters Landing Elementary and McAuliffe Elementary moving forward.

2011-2012 SV Cluster Coordinators (Kevin David, Scott Bogan, and Julie Lucas)

2012-2013 SV Cluster Coordinators (Jeri Crist and Julie Lucas)

*Department News, continued from page 8.*

**LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER continued . . .**

return to school in the fall. This is another great opportunity to build up a college resume and participate in a meaningful program. We will most likely receive donated copies of this book during exam week. Interested students should stop by the LMC to reserve a copy.

Finally, if you are looking for a great SAT & ACT prep resource, please check out number2.com. This site had great reviews in *Consumer Reports*, and it provides a great opportunity for students to prepare for college entrance exams throughout the summer. It's free and fabulous!

Happy reading!

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

**Outstanding Obligations:** All senior obligations must be paid no later than June 5, 2012. Payments may be made by cash, money order, or credit card through the online Pay4schoolstuffonline.com website. Directions for paying online are available on Edline. Underclassmen obligation letters will be mailed home the last week in June and added to the Edline business page. Underclassmen obligations may also be paid by personal check. Students with outstanding obligations will not be permitted to purchase student parking passes or participate in extracurricular activities, including, but not limited to, clubs, athletics, homecoming, and other school events. Please contact the finance office at (301) 353-8012 if you have any questions.

**IB**

This will be the first year that IB students graduate from Seneca Valley High School. Congratulations to all 64 students who took IB exams and to the 23 IB Diploma Candidates who will be graduating this year.

IB testing is now finished. The grades will come out in July. All students received instructions on how to access their grades online. The school will receive the IB diplomas and certificates in August.

*Marc Cohen, continued from page 1.*

2. *Explore a Career:* High school is a time to begin exploring possible careers for later in life. This is especially true for juniors and seniors who may want practical work experience before deciding what to study in college.
3. *Follow a Passion:* It has been said that if you can find employment doing something that you really love, you will never work a day in your life.
4. *Try Something New:* Taking an intellectual risk and trying something new isn't always easy, but high school is a great time to learn to take risks and, by doing so, discover new interests and talents.
5. *Achieve a Goal:* Getting away from the hectic schedule of high school can mean more time to do those things you always wanted to but never had the time.
6. *Do What You Want:* In addition to the programs, the internships, the jobs, the college visits, or whatever else might be part of your summer, there should also be time for family, friends, and just for you. No matter how you spend your summer, do not forget to do the things that make you feel happy and energized--whether that means spending extra time with your younger sibling, swimming in the ocean, making time to see friends you haven't seen in a while between tests and athletic games, reflecting on the past year, going out for ice cream, or anything else, you shouldn't forget to relax and have fun.



Under normal circumstances, this warrants a fine of \$70 — or \$140 during the doubling hours. Hit a pedestrian, and that opens a whole new can of worms . . . Or fines and charges, as may be the case.

This year the Senior Awards Night was a cozy evening in the SVHS media center in lieu of the auditorium.

I have been the SVHS PTSA scholarship coordinator for three years now, and I am always impressed with how many students get awards. This year was no exception. Juan Johnson, the outgoing PTSA president, made two presentations. The \$600 Jane Sowers Scholarship went to David Pesce, and the \$500 Nate Pearson Award for Excellence went to Priscilla Yevo, both talented and deserving students. It's worth noting that David's sister Heather was awarded the Jane Sowers Scholarship in 2009. There have been a few siblings who have won the Jane Sowers award over the years.

Out of the six schools that feed into SVHS, this year Sally K. Ride ES and Christa McAuliffe ES both funded \$100 scholarship awards. Waters Landing ES expressed interest and will try and participate next year. Only Sally K. Ride ES presented this year, as there were no scholarship submittals from SVHS students who attended Christa McAuliffe ES. The previous year Christa McAuliffe did award a \$100 scholarship. Suzanne Hsu, the new PTA president for Sally K. Ride ES, presented the \$100 award to Andrew Grieco. Every year the SVHS PTSA Scholarship Committee contacts the six feeder school PTAs to see if they can participate in the feeder school scholarship awards. Consistently, Sally K. Ride ES, Christa McAuliffe ES, and Waters Landing ES participate. This coming school year the committee will again attempt to increase participation. We look forward to the day when all six feeder schools can participate, and along with the Jane Sowers and Nate Pearson scholarships, eight awards could be presented to deserving students. That's my challenge to fulfill!

If parents and/or students are interested in getting involved with the SVHS PTSA Scholarship Committee, please contact me at 301-318-9628 or email me at [andrewziolkowski@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewziolkowski@hotmail.com).

Good luck and God speed to the outgoing SVHS senior class of 2012, and welcome to the incoming SVHS seniors of 2013!

### STAFF APPRECIATION

Lisa Smith, Chair

I spend a lot of time as the Staff Appreciation Chair trying to come up with unique ways to say "thank you" to the staff at Seneca Valley. Now that we are at the end of the year, I have decided that instead of another thank you to the staff, I would like to tell everyone why I choose to do this.

For the past three years, it has been my privilege to watch and learn from the staff here. I have seen their dedication to our students in both big and little ways. Some give up their lunch hour to help our children study or make-up work. Others mentor, coach, or sponsor students who have no one else to turn to. Just this past prom season, several staff members purchased and donated tickets to enable students with financial difficulties to attend, making their senior prom special. Many will graduate on June 7 only because of the way our staff went above and beyond to push them into getting their needed SSL hours. I believe a lot more of our students head to college because of our counselors and Ms. Maloney helping them to apply to school. If there's a project due, Ms. Little-Cook and Ms. Wilson are happy to help them with whatever resources they need. And don't get me started at all the ways the special education staff help our kids.

As I walk through the halls, I hear and see more smiles than frowning. Even though we have an open lunch policy, many students in grades 10-12 choose to stay at school and eat with their teachers. Students choose to hang out with their administrators and wave to them in the hall. Our students remain safe because our security team keeps them that way.

No school is perfect. There will be many that read this and think I'm on the payroll. Before you rush to judge, I challenge you to spend a day at Seneca. Take advantage of the "open door policy" and see for yourself. I'm confident that if you do, you will never look at these remarkable people the same way again.

### OVER-THE-TOP AWARD

Attention students, parents, and guardians! It's time for the Over-the-Top staff award! Has there been a member of the staff at Seneca Valley who has made a positive difference to you this year? Maybe it's someone who has gone above and beyond to help you reach your goals or just made your day a little brighter. Now it's time to show them you notice, that you think they deserve the Over-the-Top award!!

Nominations are being accepted through June 6. Forms can be found inside the main office on the PTSA table by the door. Don't want to use a form? Email Lisa Smith at [lmsr09@comcast.net](mailto:lmsr09@comcast.net) or write on a piece of paper the name of the staff member you are nominating, why YOU think they should win, along with your name and grade.

The only rule is that they MUST be an SVHS employee to win!!



Many drivers like to stop and drop students off in the opening for buses, but this too can result in a fine of \$60. That's \$120 doubled!

*Commander Suzan Hernandez continued from page 5.*

*Tell us something you recently learned:* I learned that our 50<sup>th</sup> state of Hawaii is still the most beautiful place on earth. I spent the week on the big island of Hawaii visiting places I haven't seen since 1987. Some aspects of Hawaii are identical, such as the volcanoes, and others unrecognizable, such as the new resort areas.

*What do you miss most about being a kid?* The ease of playing sports and exercising . . . these days I get aches and don't know where they came from!

*Where is your favorite vacation spot?* New York City or Hawaii (Big Island or Kauai)

*Are you ticklish?* Yes!

*If you could change careers tomorrow, what would you do?* Sports or theater photographer

*How did you spend your time during your childhood summers?* Usually with friends and family. One favorite short summer trip was to the amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio, called Cedar Point. It's the roller coaster capital of the world.

*What is the strangest food you've ever eaten?* Probably some of the cuisine of Japan. The worst was definitely the sea snails . . . think of escargot about the size of your fist. The most unusual was sake (rice wine) with gold leaf floating around. I was assured the gold was edible, and it was very good.

*Sunrises or sunsets . . . why?* Sunrises at the ocean - they exemplify the beauty of nature.

*Do you have any hidden talents?* I enjoy drawing portraits. Started with album covers in the late 70s and shifted to actors' head shots in the 90s. I have been told my style is photo realism.

*Do you have a favorite charity?* Ride For Kids, an annual motorcycle ride held in cities across the country raising money for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

*How do you manage stress?* Exercising, drawing, or planning my next trip to New York (or Hawaii!).

*When was the last time you laughed so hard you cried?* On my recent trip to Hawaii sharing sea stories with my sister and friend who is also a retired naval officer.

*Where do you like to get your news?* *New York Times* and *Washington Post*

*When is it good to be lazy?* Friday evenings

*What was the best advice you ever received?* If you don't make mistakes, you are not trying hard enough; just don't make the same mistakes again.

*Who is your favorite band or artist?* Currently, a small band named GrooveLily.

*Mike Rutland continued from page 5.*

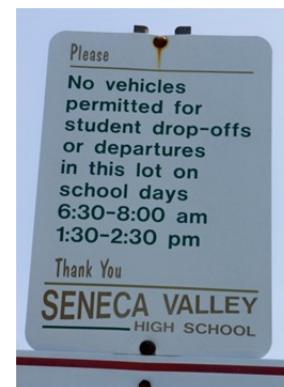
*What do you miss most about being a kid?* Having hair! No, I really miss being able to move like a kid again.

*The best part of waking up is?* I love waking up early and taking a cup of coffee out on the deck to listen to the morning sounds like the woodpeckers and owls. We have coyotes nearby that sometimes are pretty vocal.

*If you could change careers tomorrow, what would you do?* I would train horses and take groups on trail rides.

*How did you spend your time during your childhood summers?* I spent weeks at a time on my uncle's farm in South Carolina picking corn and vegetables, slopping the hogs, and fishing.

While these violations may not result in a fine, they do interrupt the travels of our staff and visitors who park in the lot, as well as pose a danger to our pedestrians. Therefore, we do ask everyone to be considerate and obey these signs.



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The Seneca Valley High School PTSA, Inc., publishes *The Screaming Eagle* newsletter.

The SVHS PTSA welcomes your input on school-related matters and wishes to recognize the accomplishments of our students and staff. If you have material which is suitable for the newsletter, please email it to the newsletter editor. If you have questions or comments for the PTSA, please contact the PTSA president.

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Stay up to date on the latest news. **Subscribe to the Eagles Bulletin today!** The bulletin is an email listserve that allows the SVHS community access to the latest information affecting our students. Visit the SVHS website at [www.SenecaValleyHighSchool.com](http://www.SenecaValleyHighSchool.com) and click on Eagles Bulletin.

#### SVHS Contact Information

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A complete listing of staff may be found on our website.