

North Hollywood High School
ZOO MAGNET CENTER

ZMPC Parent Council Meeting
September 13, 2006

WELCOME

Linda Hurevitz, President
W 818-500-4800 H: 818-769-9404, vitzz@earthlink.net

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Penelope Jones, Secretary
H: 323-221-4097 penelope@usc.edu
No minutes to approve

TREASURER'S REPORT

Michele Wolfe, Treasurer
H: (818) 509-0300 rleewolfe@earthlink.net
The ZMPC account currently has \$5,346.85 in it. We raised about \$4,900 from fundraising letter last semester, which was a first for us!

ZOO CREW/ZOO SENIOR REPORT

Natalie Hamamdjian, President
(818) 765-5074, natalie.ham@gmail.com
Jessica Jedvaj , Vice President

Aids Walk on Sunday October 15. We need families to support their students! Sign ups will be at 9am and the 10K/6.2 mi. walk at 10:30am. Students who want to participate can register in office or mail registration cards on <http://www.aidswalk.net>. The walk starts on San Vicente Blvd, between Melrose and Santa Monica Blvd. Students can get community service hours for CSF and college applications for participating. Our CSF student representative is Michelle Yeung. Students can contact her for CSF applications at maniac1.m@gmail.com.

The newly painted (thank you to senior Jane Cho who designed the zebra motif) Sugar Shack is up and running now. We are making lots of money selling healthy snacks such as granola bars, fruit chews and Gatorade.

We are recruiting Zoo Crew reps for each grade. Students can email Natalie if they want an application.

Winter Ball is Saturday, December 9, 7-11:30pm at the Grand Ballroom in the LA Zoo.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Angela Hewlett-Bloch
W: 323-660-0165, abloch@lausd.k12.ca.us

I am excited to see so many people here tonight! The big news is that we finally have a new counselor at the Zoo now. Her name is Alicia Rojas so please introduce yourselves to her.

One concern of parents was how to connect our students with the college counselor, Ms. Eileen Doctorow, at the main campus and I talked to her about this. On **TH Sept 21 at 7pm** she will be holding a **college event for all seniors and their parents at NHHS in the cafeteria**. After that if you have additional questions or concerns, she can come to the Zoo to meet individually with students and their parents. Zoo Magnet students can also schedule visits to the college counseling center at NHHS on W and TH at noontime.

There is really nothing else going on at the main campus.

Parent question: Did the new school open yet?

AHB: It will open October 3, and is for 9th and 10th graders only. Some of our students will go there, although students can request to stay at NHHS. Our enrollment is down to about 3,000 and we will lose even more so that means we will lose some of our teachers too.

We are scheduled to return to a single track calendar in 2008-09 but maybe it will be 2007-08. We will have to wait and see.

Parent question: My daughter has 50 students in her Spanish class at NHHS with Ms. Giron. Can anything be done about this?

AHB: Zoo Magnet students like her and they don't want to leave the class. Ms. Giron may try to make a go of it. This might bother other teachers but the goal is to keep the Zoo kids together with Zoo teachers.

Our Asst Principal in charge of the Counseling Office, Virginia Hall, retired last semester and so Elena Turner, counselor at the HGM is taking over as interim head. Ms. Turner's number is 818.769.8510, x 228 if anyone needs to contact her.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Lee McManus

W: 323-660-0165, mcgroovy@earthlink.net

It has been an action-packed couple of weeks and I will introduce Ms. Rojas, our new counselor, but I wanted you to know that we have a full staff roster now and shortly we will be in good shape.

We have a new Zoo liaison at the LA Zoo and once we get past the beginning of the year confusion I think this will be a bell weather year for us, because we continue to make more progress with the Zoo: the new Education Director (name?) and John Lewis, the Director, want to play a bigger role with the Zoo Magnet curriculum. We have placed 16 Animal Husbandry seniors at the LA Zoo this year. We hadn't placed any students last year and only 6 the year before that, so this is pretty remarkable in itself.

An immediate challenge is parking. Though I was promised adequate parking spaces for our faculty and our community, it looks like there won't be any student parking allowed at the Zoo Magnet anymore. Students will have to park at NHHS and take the bus. This

is due to the opening of the newly refurbished Griffith Observatory. They spent all their money on renovations and didn't deal with the parking situation at all. They have inadequate parking at the Observatory so they plan to eliminate the dirt patch outside of our campus and maximize the number of parking spaces in our lot, plus run shuttle buses from our lot during the day, which might interfere with our school buses. We will see how this works out. We need at least 6 spots for visitors, staff and administration, plus one for each of our teachers.

Parent question: What about the Griffith Park Master Plan which calls for eliminating our campus?

LM: There is nothing to worry about right now. We have assurances from Tom LaBonge, city councilman in our district, that they are not getting rid of the Zoo Magnet School.

Parent question: Is there a current DWP project outside?

LM: No but as to our possible building expansion, one of the temporary bungalows that currently house the Observatory will remain here as a headquarters for the shuttle buses; the others will go to the senior center in Los Feliz. Unfortunately we could not get any of them for our expansion plans. But LAUSD is opening lots of new schools and since enrollment is down all over, it might be possible to move some unused bungalows from another school to our campus. We may have a battle on our hands though because the Observatory needs as many parking spaces as possible, at least for the opening months this fall.

We have a new custodian, who is working two hours more per day at the Zoo Magnet campus. (6 hours instead of 4) So look around! We had a "deep cleaning" on campus with a full-time crew of 6-8 custodians this summer who scrubbed everything: first time in 25 years. Decrease clutter and increase cleanliness is new motto?

Parent question: Was there any response from the City about the on-off valves for the sprinklers?

LM: No, not yet. The main valve is located way over in the Observatory buildings but it does not even work.

We have new computer for our counseling office, and we'll get it connected and up and running on Friday.

Long term issues: we need to meet with the new head counselor over at NHHS and see that we get the same offer as Ms. Hall gave us: that the Zoo Magnet will get the first crack at the class schedule. This is necessary because we have fewer options on campus as to where our students and teachers can go. Hopefully we can take advantage of this.

Parent question: Is there a new teacher?

LM: I'm sorry, yes! Ms Gottlieb is our new history and soc studies teacher; she is very charming and experienced, and is from Manual Arts HS where she taught 5 years at the Advanced Studies Magnet, and we have had really good reports about her from the students. She is our traveling teacher so it is harder for her since she doesn't have her own classroom.

In 2003, Ms. Gill and 1 or 2 faculty members retired. We needed to replace Mr. Shapiro with 2 teachers since he taught science and computers (a very hard job). Instead of replacing me when I became the Magnet Coordinator, we got a full-time science teacher and a full-time computer teacher. Ms. Hall said at the time that we weren't teaching enough foreign language courses to keep a language teacher busy; but if we moved Life Skills and Health to winter intercession, then we could replace my position in social studies.

Ms Giron is now the Zoo Magnet's Spanish teacher at NHHS and we filled my teacher position with Ms. Gottlieb.

Parent question: How is Mr. Owsley doing with his science class, AP Bio?

LM: He is scaring some 10th graders, but doing ok.

He and Ms. Larson were here almost every day this summer, working on their fall classes.

Next year chemistry will be taught in the 10th grade as opposed to the 11th grade, so that will open room for more challenging classes. He taught science at a middle school and has really turned out to be a jewel. Ms. Larson has been working with him and they have created some very exciting and challenging labs for their students.

Parent question: What grades do you have to be in for the Animal Husbandry?

They have to be in the 12th grade for Animal Husbandry but they can take Animal Studies and Biology and other courses that routinely make visits to the Zoo. In the future, we are working on a plan where all students will spend at least some part of everyday at the LA Zoo.

Parent question: Can parents help with negotiating any of these issues you are dealing with?

LM: Absolutely yes. I think that any parent can support by joining GLAZA (Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association) for one. Talk to your students about the responsibilities of being a Zoo Magnet student. Have them volunteer during winter and summer intercessions at the Zoo. Let Michelle Milles our liaison at the Zoo know they are our students. We are creating an LA Zoo/Zoo Magnet Council to plan out a number of exciting options for our students.

Parent question: Are there any age requirements?

LM: You have to be 16 or older to volunteer alone or have a parent with you.

Jessica: EcoCorps program has a training.

Linda: The applications are available in July, and the training is in Sept: every Sat. for 10 wks. Go to LA Zoo website for more information.

Linda: It has been a challenge in securing a counselor for the Zoo Magnet. We secured the additional funding for a counselor thru lots of pushing and advocacy from parents. We lost our recent counselor but thru serendipity, Ms Hewlett-Bloch got some resumes together and a few of us interviewed Alicia Rojas. We all agreed that she had the energy and drive to be our new counselor. Welcome Ms. Rojas.

COUNSELOR'S REPORT

Alicia Rojas

Alicia: Thank you for the introduction. I am now working on finalizing program changes and then will be on to doing a graduation checklist and writing letters of recommendation for seniors. So I really need to get to know them.

There will be a Senior Parent meeting on TH Sept. 21, about college applications, etc. I am working closely with Ms. Doctorow.

Up to the Minute is NHHS college counseling office's newsletter. It is given to all students to take home, so hopefully you have seen a copy.

Parent question: Letters of recommendation are needed for private colleges, but where do we get the forms?

Alicia: Ms Doctorow's office, but I can get them for you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Linda Hurevitz

Linda: I brought some college-related fliers here so come up at the end of our meeting and grab them:

1. Up to the Minute newsletters that have the info about the college night on Sept 21. But if you are a parent of a junior you should go too. I will be emailing these to you regularly so all the parents will get a copy and do not need to depend on their kids to bring it home.
2. College Center Services fliers are here too. They tell you what is available at Ms. Doctorow's office.
3. 4-yr plan for Zoo Magnet Graduation requirements. Blue copies, take one.
4. Graduation Requirements and Minimum College Admission A-G requirements, 2003-

2007. They are old and some requirements have changed in the last year or so, so ask Ms. Rojas or Ms. Doctorow for an updated list.

NHHS Graduation Checklist: If you have any concerns, then please take one of these and start keeping track of your student's coursework. I will up-date them and get digital copies made and send it to all parents.

OLD BUSINESS

Parent question: How do we spend the money we raised?

Linda: We bought the red awning over the food service area and the awning over the office. By the way, let me introduce Angie our office manager, who is an amazing resource on our campus. She knows everyone and everything.

We just bought a portable PA system so we have our own set-up that we can take with us wherever. It has a great sound system.

We are about to buy two picnic tables with benches and umbrellas, for students and teachers.

Also we will be purchasing two large shade sails for over the entrance area, in a tri shape. They are green and beige and will overlap. They will be installed against the wall of the building near Mr. Winnie's classroom and the fence in the corridor to the lunch area. Deb Brown found an installer for us. Though they're not waterproof, they will shield students from the rain. They are on order now.

Parent question: Why did you choose a triangular shape?

Linda: Well, for the artistic value and also because they fit better than rectangular. Deb will contact the LA Tree People to get a large live oak tree to plant in the middle of courtyard for additional shade

Parent: Let's plant oaks in parking lot because they are a protected species and that way we can claim the space for the Zoo Magnet. (Laughter)

We also made a commitment to set aside \$200 for each teacher for a wish list, but they have to submit receipts to us first. We hosted a thank-you luncheon for our teachers last year that was very much appreciated and we would like to do that again. We also paid for field trips and provide scholarship monies for academic opportunities for needy students on a case by case basis.

Cheryl Bianchi: Last week there was a Target ad that said Target would give \$1,000/school for field trips, but that money must be applied for by a teacher. Also, with eScrip, a percentage of your purchases will be donated to your school automatically, so please all parents sign up your Von's, Ralph's, Gas and other credit cards at escrip.com.

Parent: A Target credit card will donate 1% of purchases to the school of your choice. Office Depot, too.

Parent: But it asks for a school code and I didn't know what the code for our school was.

Linda: I will go on-line and share the school codes with you in the next email.

A half-day Health Fair was very successfully organized last year by Michele Wolfe. We had some amazing speakers. And this year she will be doing a Career Fair on Nov. 3. 8am – 12noon. And she needs some help with the following:

1. Someone who can speak about a career in teaching.
2. Someone who can speak about careers in the film industry, a post-production supervisor, perhaps? Anyone know anyone?

She needs speakers by mid October!

LM: Joe Lane is a career person at NHHS and can talk to the students about how to get a career, prepare for interviews, writing resumes, etc.

Michele: Anyone know anyone at JPL, Cedars-Sinai, LA Zoo? Call me at the phone number above.

NEW BUSINESS

Linda: **Extreme Makeover Day is Saturday, October 21, 8am to noon** and we need volunteers. Whatever you can do it appreciated

Maris Bedoyan: **Zoo Magnet Tile Project.** A few parents and myself are making “legacy” ceramic tiles for our big donors (\$500 and above). I will engrave the names on each tile, and each year we will feature a different animal. I was thinking perhaps 12x12” or 6x6” or even something smaller, depending on size of contribution.

We will be starting with a special tile to commemorate outgoing ZMPC President Ralph Gentile. He is our first “guinea pig.” The oryx will be on Ralph’s tile because it was the first animal that the Zoo Magnet students raised funds for.

Then we will build a wall of tiles against one of our buildings!

We also want to involve the kids too, so for example, for \$20 they get some terra cotta clay and they can make something beautiful and glaze it. We will then hang them all from the chain link fence, all strung together and plant some potato vines to grow around them - it will be beautiful really. This might also be a good project for kids who want to get extra credit.

Linda: Volunteerism sign-up sheets are being passed around. Please sign up and contribute in whatever way you can.

Annual Zoo Magnet Community Holiday Party Potluck and Silent Auction will be held on **Friday, December 1.** Venue to be announced, maybe up at the Zoo. We need people to come up with auction items such as meals, objects, games, etc.

I will circulate a form with our non-profit tax ID for contributions that are tax deductible. Need volunteers to organize the potluck and auction, so I will be in touch with everyone later. When you are coming to the Potluck, watch out for the Light Festival. Do not come from Los Feliz in the south. Come from the north, off the 5 or the 134 Fwys

Our fundraising coordinators this year are Dan and his wife Leslie Lester, as well as Robin. They will be sending out a fundraising letter similar to the one they sent out last spring.

Bruce: I enrolled the Zoo Magnet in LA Shares, District 2, which means we can go to their warehouse with a big truck and load up on anything they happen to have, two to four times/yr. It is a great opportunity to get some good stuff for the Zoo Magnet campus.

Linda: Our guest tonight is Hugo Cristalis, the academic outreach counselor from UCLA.

GUEST SPEAKER

Hugo Cristalis

Outreach Counselor - U.C. Admissions

Hello and thank you for inviting me here. I will be speaking tonight about two things: UC eligibility and UC competitiveness.

At UC Admissions, they look at 5 things:

1. GPA
2. SAT and Subject Test scores
3. The number of A-G courses
4. The number of Honors, AP and college classes
5. The strength of the senior year

They will then do a comprehensive review that includes

A. Extra-curricular activities

A student only has 5 “slots” to fill in with these so it is better to make a list of everything the student is involved in from 9th grade on, and then decide which 5 are the best. You can also COMBINE different awards to fit them all in. For example, do not use two slots for “Honor Roll 10th grade” and “Honor Roll 11th grade.” Instead, say “Honor Roll, 9th thru 12th grades.” Remember that ANYTHING that shows “honor” status is good. The fact that you were chosen out of your class to participate in a selective program such as Animal Husbandry is considered an “honor.” Remember that the “selection” is the honor, but the “service” is the act, so list the service under community service. So an honor can be listed twice in this way. Even if after being selected for something you decided not to do it, it is still an honor, so list it.

There are 6-week special UC programs in February where high school students live on a UC campus and take two UC transferable classes – this would be an “honor.”

Look under Summer Programs at NHHS College Center. Apply just to get admitted, even if you don’t go – that is an “honor.”

Any statewide program is better than a local program.

Consider clubs, sports, church activities, tutoring, work (with number of hours), etc.

B. Personal Statement

Three opportunities to write about yourself: one 600-word (one page) essay; and two 200-word essays (paragraphs). At least one essay should be used to explain the Zoo Magnet program and why you attended it. If you have to ride the bus, add that too because that shows dedication. What is the Zoo Magnet? Why did you want to attend this school?

Write the essays early in the fall and pass them to several of your teachers to review for comments. The UC deadline is October 31.

CSU Applications require only a student's GPA and coursework: no extracurricular activities and no essays.

Remember that the UC system serves the top 12% of every graduating class. CSU serves the top 33% and the Community Colleges serve the rest or 100%. So if you are in the top 12% of your class, then you are eligible to attend a UC. It may not be the UC of your choice, but it will be a UC, and you can always transfer later to your first-choice UC.

The typical UCLA freshman has taken 17 Honors, AP and/or community college courses.

I would be happy to meet individually with students and their parents in the NHHS College Counseling office. Please call 818.769.8510, x308 to make an appointment with me.

Zoo Magnet Back-to-School Night is TH September 28, 6-8pm

Next ZMPC meeting is TH September 28, 8-9pm

ADJOURNMENT

Zoo Magnet Parent Counsel Executive Board

President	Linda Hurevitz	vitzz@earthlink.net
Secretary	Michele Wolfe	rleewolfe@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Penelope Jones	penelope@usc.edu

9th Grade Representatives:

Bruce Neckels	webneckels@sbcglobal.net
Jeannie Barton	ebstar@aol.com

10th Grade Representatives

Robin Guzman	guzman@pacbell.net
Cherilyn Kamo	ckamo@kamosuskin.com
Nancy Rackham	nrack@aol.com

11th Grade Representatives

Dan & Leslie Lester	light190@hotmail.com
Michele Wolfe	rleewolfe@earthlink.net

12th Grade Representatives

Deb Brown	rdbrown@ucla.edu
Penelope Jones	penelope@usc.edu

Special Committees

Fundraising

Robin Guzman
Dan & Leslie Lester

Community Relations

Nancy Rackham

Creative Director

Cherilyn Kamo

Fundraising Tile Project

Maris Bedoyan
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