



GUNN'S WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

April 22, 2018

[Edición en Español](#)

[Mandarin Edition](#)

Dear Titan Community,

It has been and remains my honor to work with and serve the students, staff, and community of Gunn High School and the Palo Alto Unified School District. During my brief tenure, I have enjoyed opportunities to expand, refine, and assist efforts to support all students to greater levels of success. The Gunn and Palo Alto Unified community is rich with some of the most intellectually motivated students, talented educators and support staff, and engaged community members that I have experienced in my career.

After careful consideration, I have accepted an opportunity to work in my home community. I will be resigning from my position as Assistant Principal at Gunn High School effective June 30, 2018. I have enjoyed opportunities to meet, get to know, and work with you as we expand, refine, and deepen efforts to support all students to greater levels of success.

Graduation 2018

With graduation quickly approaching, I am also sharing a [link](#) to our senior class activities page.

SELF (9th grade)

This week, SELF mentors will continue to meet one-on-one with students, checking in with them about their social and academic well-being as we all head into the last stretch of the school year.

Sources of Strength (all grades)

Thirty-four students participated in a training session for Peer Leaders on April 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. With the 57 trained in the fall, they make a total of 91 Peer Leaders who have participated in training and following event in this 2017-2018 school year.

The Strengths focus for April are [Spirituality and Generosity](#). Help your student think of ways to nurture both. May will focus on Mental Health/Medical Access, and there will be a Healthy Activities Walk on May 11 after school.

ROCK will be sponsoring a "Talk to Me" t-shirt airbrushing activity on the lawn between the amphitheater and hedge on May 3.

Gunn Shoutouts campaign continues through Facebook; they are posting student-submitted shoutouts in order to promote everyday acts of kindness. The Facebook page is accessible at facebook.com/rockatgunn.

ROCK students are also planning "I'll Be There For You When . . ." for the last week of April and start of May. Students are encouraged to share thoughts about showing peers "when you will be there for someone, whether going through tough times or simply needing encouraging words."

ROCK is also sponsoring a Mobile Barnyard to visit campus on May 18 to help students minimize stress and create community.

Wellness Center (all grades)

In preparation for supporting student wellness next year we are hoping to continue partnership with individuals or an organization that can support pet assisted therapy on campus. This year we were so lucky to collaborate with Hiromi Miller and Kirk Miller to bring therapy dogs in training and certified therapy dogs to campus each week. We are seeking out any connections with families to provide a similar service next year. Please email Lrocha@pausd.org if you would like to get involved.

Camp Everytown Community Event

Save the date for Thursday, April 26th at 6 pm on Gunn High School's Library. Please join students who recently attended Camp Everytown for an evening of learning around social change and the importance of empathy education. Students, families, and community members invited! RSVP through the link below: [Eventbrite: Camp Everytown Community Event](#)

College and Career Corner (11th and 12th grade)

If you have questions, we are here to help. Money matters: please contact [Mr Leighton Lang](#). Muddled about where to go and need to think out loud about your choices, let [Mrs Kirsch](#) know you need an appt. Please go visit colleges you are interested in attending before you send in your firm yes. Know that ALL UCs except Merced *will have wait lists*.

IF you know you are **not going to take a particular college seat**, please let that college know ASAP as then they will go to the wait-list more quickly and make people very happy!

Scholarship Opportunity

Established in 2011, the Honmyo Nguyen Family Trust Scholarship seeks to provide scholarship support to students residing in Santa Clara County who are planning to attend a four-year California public university full-time and are committed to addressing the most challenging problems and improving the quality of life within the Silicon Valley. These scholarships are designed to recognize students who demonstrate academic excellence, financial need and leadership qualities as evidenced by school and community activities.

Information and the application form can be found at the following link:

<https://www.siliconvalleyycf.org/scholarships/honmyo>

but to summarize:

The scholarship is for up to two \$1500 one-time only scholarships:

Eligibility

- Current graduating senior of a public or private high school in Santa Clara County
- Currently enrolled or planning to enroll on a full-time basis at a four-year California public college (Cal State, Cal Poly) or university (UC)
- Minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.3
- Demonstrated financial need

Deadline: April 24th, 2018

Save the Date

- April 24: **The Changing Trends in College Admissions**. Felicia Fahey, PHD will speak on this important topic. Gunn Staff Lounge at 7 PM. Ms. Fahey earned a PhD in Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies. Ms. Fahey is a frequent volunteer at Gunn on college essay writing and help to college pathways students. She recently toured colleges in Europe and can provide information on that at this event.
- April 27: 7-9 pm "**College Planning Road Map**" by Syrous Parsay in the Gunn Library. Please use the following link to register:
<https://2018-gunn-college-planning-roadmap.eventbrite.com>
- April 28: 9-1 in the Sunken Garden (across from Flint Center) **De Anza College** New Student and Parent Open House. This gives you priority enrollment!
- Apr 28: **College Fair** at the Cow Palace from 1:30-4:30 PM.
- May 1: **Dispelling the Myth of the Total Winner** student presentation with Speaker: Dr. Jamie O'Keefe during FLEX. Students sign up using their Family Connection account.
- May 3: **College Fair** at West Valley, all day and closes at 8 PM.
- May 9: **Junior Class Student and Parent Night** in Gunn's Titan Gym 6:30 PM. To RSVP, please click [here](#).

Junior Parent Night (11th grade)

Join our amazing counseling team on May 9, beginning at 6:30 pm in Titan Gym. The evening will focus on preparing for senior year and remaining calm and focused during the college admission notification season.

The evening will begin with junior parents together in Titan Gym learning about the many benefits and tools available in Family Connection. After the opening session, parents will be engaging in one of two breakout sessions. One break out session will focus on writing the college application essay questions for both the Common Application and the University of California. The second break out session will focus on paying for college.

The evening will close with parents coming back together for a panel discussion. The panel will host counselors, parents, current seniors and graduates. Don't miss this fabulous event, mark your calendars now. To RSVP for the event, please click [here](#).

Junior Conferences (11th grade)

Junior Conferences have begun! Following up on individual appointments with Mrs. Kirsch in the College and Career Center, counselors will hold these individual student conferences in March, April and into May. To get started on the process, each junior will need to complete a 5 minute survey on Family Connection that gives the counselor a glimpse into the student's post-secondary goals, current needs and anything specific they'd like discussed at the meeting. The survey can be found on the "About Me" tab in the left hand column titled "**Junior Conference Survey**". After your student has completed the survey, they should email the counselor to request a meeting.

This information is being sent to all juniors through their Schoology accounts and will be broadcast on multiple showings of the daily Gunn produced television show, TBN.

If your student is unable to log on to Family Connection, they should seek out Leighton Lang in the College & Career Center for support.

Summer School (All grades)

The summer school website: <https://www.pausd.org/programs/summer-school>

Counselors will continue to enroll students for summer school classes that are "credit recovery."

For student registration of classes, registration went live on March 7th at 8 AM.

Self-registration is only applicable for the following courses:

1. Living Skills (priority to rising 11th and 12th grade students)
2. Economics
3. Work/Exploratory Experience
4. Bridge to Geometry A (rising 9th graders)
5. Geometry A (rising 10th graders)
6. Transition to Calculus

To register for these classes on the summer school website the following information is required:

1. Student's Infinite Campus ID Number
2. Student's email address
3. Parent email address
4. Phone number

If you are planning to take a class for credit off campus, be sure to discuss this with your guidance counselor.

Please Support PiE

Thank you to all that have supported Partners in Education (PiE). The donations to PiE continue to support many programs at Gunn, including our guidance department. Your donations have made a difference for all students at Gunn.

Thanks for your support!

With appreciation,

Mike Heffner
Assistant Principal

