

HOLMES Highlights

A NEWSLETTER
OF THE HOLMES
JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL PTA

www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/hjh

November 2009 ♦ Issue 3

Upcoming Events

- 11/9 Site Council Meeting, 4-6 p.m. in the library
- 11/9 Positive School Climate Committee Meeting, 3:40 p.m. in the large conference room
- 11/11 Veterans Day Holiday – No School
- 11/20 Single Lunch Mix-It-Up activity, lunch for all grades 11:50-12:35 p.m.
- 11/23-27 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 12/1 Choir and band Winter Concert, Performing Arts Building, Davis High
- 12/3 PTA Meeting, 7-9 p.m. in the library
- 12/4 Mid-quarter progress report ending period
- 12/4-6 “The Taming of the Shrew” performances in the multipurpose room
- 12/7 9th grade Secrets assembly
- 12/11 Single Lunch leadership activity, lunch for all grades 11:50-12:35 p.m.
- 12/11 School dance, 7:30-10 p.m. multipurpose, gym
- 12/14 Holmes Toy Shop, 6-8 p.m. in room G-45
- 12/14 Site Council Meeting, 4-6 p.m. in the library
- 12/15 Jazz concert, 7 p.m. multipurpose room
- 12/16 Junior High School combined orchestra Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Building.

A Message from the Principal, Derek Brothers

Time To Give Thanks

November is the time of year we give thanks. The Thanksgiving Holiday allows us to think about and appreciate our many privileges and gifts. As principal, I would like to reflect on the things at school for which I am thankful:

- The first quarter has ended, and things are going well.
- Our students are wonderful and energetic.
- Our parents generously support their children’s learning and all our school efforts.
- Our staff is exceptional because members work together to provide a strong educational program for our students, and they also support each other.
- I am very proud to be a part of a warm, caring and giving school community.

Late Start Wednesdays

On Wednesday mornings Holmes, Harper and Emerson Junior Highs have a late start. Period 1 starts at 9:28 a.m. in order for staff to meet and collaborate. We have had four late-start mornings this school year.

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A Message from Your PTA President, Cathy Farman

Consider Attending PTA Meeting

Have you made it to one of our PTA meetings yet? If not, I would love to see you there. I hope you make a commitment to come to at least one — to find out what your PTA is all about. The meetings last from 7:00-8:30 or 9:00, depending on how much business there is to discuss.

Principal Derek Brothers, Counselor Joanna Littell and Teacher Heather Wade give monthly reports on what is going on at Holmes. We also have presentations from various teaching departments each month; they tell us about activities in their classrooms. Our meeting schedule for the rest of the school year is: December 3, January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, and May 27. I promise if you come, you won’t get roped into doing anything extra — you will just find out

Principal's Message

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The staff at Holmes has growing concerns about the great number of students that gather early in the morning at the Nugget Shopping Center on Covell Boulevard on these Wednesday mornings. The staff at Nugget and the other businesses have been extremely helpful and welcoming to our students, but also share in our concern for student safety on these mornings.

While most students are behaving very well, a few students have been involved in risky behaviors. Some have earned community and school consequences for these behaviors since this school year started. Some students are arriving as early as 7:00 a.m. and staying for up to two hours at this location before their school day begins. Many are buying energy drinks and large amounts of candy.

We would like to ask you to reconsider sending your child out to socialize with friends at the Nugget Market on these Wednesday mornings.

Student Achievement

The Holmes staff and Site Council are updating the School Plan that follows state guidelines and focuses on increasing success for underachieving students. The plan is submitted to the district office in early January for Board of Education approval.

This process looks at a wide range of information including how our students are progressing, results of STAR tests, grades, attendance, student survey responses, discipline records, etc. From this information, goals for student performance are written, and programs to support the goals are continued, modified, or implemented.

Later the effectiveness of these programs is evaluated and the plan will be revised for the following year.

Effective Communication: Email Guidelines

As a district, we are committed to communication between home and school; this is essential to student success. Because of the ease and efficiency of email, we find that we are all managing an increasing number of messages every day. In the case of teachers, the time spent in responding to this email load can impact the teachers' ability to plan effective instruction and give prompt feedback to students about their work. A similar impact is felt throughout the community. To assist in the effective use of email, we offer these guidelines to staff, parents, and students:

- Email is best for objective exchanges of information.
- Try to send the first email about an issue only to those directly involved.

and most focused answer when the message is succinct.

- Because of the speed of email, we all begin to expect equally speedy responses. Please allow up to two working days for a response.
- Email messages can sometimes be misinterpreted. A phone call or conference may be a better solution
- Before contacting a teacher for information, please encourage your child to check other school sources such as fellow students, bulletins, or teachers' websites.

New Student Information System (SIS)

As you all know, it is the long standing practice of the DJUSD to inform parents of student attendance in a predictable and detailed way on a daily basis. This has not been possible since the beginning of school due to the installation of a new student information system. Both implementation teams expected this to be a routine task but have encountered significant difficulties

If you have been absent, you must hand in a note to the attendance office (the very next day you return to school) that has been signed by your parent/guardian indicating your name, date of absence, and reason for the absence OR have your parent/guardian call the attendance office with your name, date of absence, and reason for the absence. The attendance office telephone number is 757-5453 ext. 102.

Make-Up Work:

We are experiencing a very bad flu season. Our staff is aware of this and will work with all students to help them keep up with the class during this time. We are asking that you help us by remembering to do the following things:

- If your child misses a class for any reason, it is their responsibility to contact a classmate to get any assignments and make up missed work. It is a good idea to have a pre-arranged student buddy who will gather your assignments for you whenever you are absent.
- When absences are for illness or other excused reasons, usually work may be made up.
- When absences are for suspensions and/or unexcused reasons, work may be accepted for partial credit or it may not be accepted at all.
- For absences less than 4 days, contact class members for the work.
- On the third day of an absence, your parent/guardian may call the counseling office to request that work be collected for you from your teachers. The number is 757-5450 ext 115.

From Your PTA President

Continued from Page 1

more about the day-to-day at Holmes and get to know Holmes's staff better.

At the October PTA meeting, the membership heard from last year's auditor, Sandra Schickele. She carefully checked our financial records to determine that our record keeping and practices are in order. The audit is an important part of PTA procedures and we appreciate Sandra's time and thoroughness.

I have many volunteers to thank for PTA activities during the months of August, September and October. Shelley Bronzan and Jan Blumenfeld did an exceptional job, along with the entire Holmes staff, of making registration go smoothly. Hospitality coordinators Alden LeVerrier and Sally Albertson welcomed the staff back to school with a beautiful boxed lunch from Crepeville along with salad and dessert donations from Holmes families.

All those things you signed up to help with? Volunteer Coordinator Iben Wilson created lists for the activities; coordinators will be contacting you when you are needed. The PTA Membership team of Jennifer Thompson and Nancy Loeb Williams has

created our membership list and tallied members and donations—no small task because of the terrific parent support PTA has at Holmes. Holmes Registrar Judy Stafford and parent Helen Ma worked to get the student directory out. Parent Mary James put together a fun week of activities for Red Ribbon Week, promoting positive messages aimed at preventing drug and alcohol use. Mary's efforts were supported by Holmes attendance secretary Cheryl Ozga and the Holmes 8th grade A Team.

Our next newsletter will be out the first week of December and will cover events for December and January. In the meantime, we will keep you posted through the Holmes PTA listserv. If you are not receiving the listserv announcements and would like to, go the Holmes PTA website at <http://dcn.davis.ca.us/~hjh/index.htm>, click on the listservs button on the left side, and follow the instruction for subscribing.

See you December 3, at the PTA meeting. Help me make it the best-attended meeting of the year!

-- Cathy Farman

clfarman@sbcglobal.net, 750-0321

Grade Reporting

DJUSD secondary schools operate on a semester system with each of the two semesters divided into two quarters. Progress reports are mailed home mid-quarter. If a student is earning a passing grade (C or higher) in a course at the progress report, the teacher is not required to give a mark.

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter and report the semester grades at the end of quarter 2 and quarter 4. Semester grades are the only grades kept in students' permanent records.

Quarter one ended October 30. Quarter 2 and semester 1 will end on January 22. Report cards are mailed approximately one week after the end of the reporting

Save A Gallon Gas, Win a Prize

Walk, bike, skateboard, carpool with another student, or otherwise avoid getting into the car and enter a year-long contest to win prizes ranging from jamba juice to an Ipod Nano. Register through the Davis Schools team at saveagallon.org.

The contest is for students only (no parents, teachers or other adults); carpooling miles count if they include two or more non-related students; you must join one of the Davis school teams on the website; all alternative transportation miles count.

Here's how:

1. Go to www.saveagallon.org
2. Click on *Create new account*
3. Enter a *Username* consisting of first initial and first three letters of the last name. If that name is taken, add a 1 or other number.
4. Enter an *E-mail address* and a *password* (Note that no one can track the student's user ID back to the e-mail address.
5. *User Profile* information is optional
6. Answer the *CAPTCHA* question (a means of identifying spammers)
7. Click on *Create new account*
8. If you entered everything correctly you should see "Thanks for Joining Saveagallon.org!"
9. Click on *SAG Settings*
10. Choose a *Default Transportation Type*.
11. Choose a *Team*: Elementary students should select their classroom teacher; secondary students (junior or senior High) should select their school.

That's it! You can now log in and begin posting your mileage. For

Library News

The library is offering an "Adopt A Book" program. Parents or students are welcome to buy new copies of books to donate. Inside each donated book will be a book plate naming the donor. Examples include: Any Great Illustrated Classic (i.e. Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Dracula, White Fang, Jane Eyre, etc.). The Green Book: The Everyday Guide to Saving the Planet One Step at a Time; Cirque du Freak (by Darren Shan), books #1-12; Stone Arch Graphic Novels (www.stonearchbooks.com)

Pay Databases

The library has three excellent databases available for student use (both in school and from home). These databases were paid for with PTA money—thank you parents! All three databases can be accessed from the Holmes Library web page and are accessible via the Holmes Junior High home page.

Facts on File Science. This one has 2 databases, Science Online and Health Reference Online – both of which have the same password (all lowercase).

User Name: holmesjhs
Password: facts

Country Reports (initial letter is capitalized)

User Name: Holmes
Password: Country

Math Department News

To all parents of students in Miss Hogan's class: If you are not getting regular emails from Miss Hogan please email her at khogan@djusd.k12.ca.us to be added to her mailing list.

If your workplace has one side 'clean' paper, the Math Dept will recycle it for classroom use. Information on printed side should be appropriate for junior high eyes. Drop off your recycled paper in the

Science Dept. Says Thanks and ...

We would like to extend an extra thank you to all who donated materials and funds to our department. We are now well stocked with baking soda, vinegar, rubbing alcohol, food coloring, hydrogen peroxide, microscope slides, and Ziplock bags. For those who are still interested, we would greatly appreciate more of the following consumables: dissecting gloves (all sizes), distilled water, tissue boxes, large hand sanitizers (1-2L) and disinfecting wipes. The 7th grade teachers could also use a few fresh potatoes (see below).

Soon all the 7th graders will be responsible for housing and feeding mealworms from their larval stage into their adult beetle stage. Observing and recording the growth and development takes between 4 and 6 weeks.

Another thank you to all who helped raise \$185 dollars to donate to the NorCalBats Rescue and Education group.

The 8th graders are learning the fundamental aspects of the physical sciences. Mrs. Bryant's students just finished

investigating the skeletal system and are now investigating the forces that move the body. You can visit the library and see the students' work hanging on the walls. Mrs. Blackwell's class is deep into researching energy systems. Students are making posters and writing letters in addition to learning how to design their own experiments and communicate results. After a month spent drawing life-sized skeletons, Ms. LaFlamme's classes are studying how all things move and the forces that cause these motions

Ms. Kennedy's biology classes will get to visit the ecology exhibits at the California Academy of Sciences on December 1.

The earth science classes are continuing their first semester project on recycling. This is an action project to promote recycling and wise use of Earth's resources.

The tentatively-scheduled field trip for Ms. Quenon's classes on December 8 has been cancelled.

Turkey Trot and Bon Mots

The Holmes PE Department is encouraging students to team up and run in the annual Davis Turkey Trot. Encourage your student to enter and wear their Holmes gear in the race! It should be a fun run.

All grade levels will be participating in gymnastics and dance in the coming weeks. The 7th graders will learn folk dances from around the world in concert with their social studies world history activities. The 8th graders will learn square dancing to accent their study of US History. The 9th grade students will learn social (couples) dancing in line with their studies of the classics in English.

Thank you to all of you who contributed tennis balls and laundry soap. We are all set in those areas for the year. We are interested in any baseball/softball gloves you are not using. We do not have enough gloves for all of our students. Also, if anyone has a step-stool to donate, we can use it to reach some of our equipment stored on higher shelves. Please drop any donations off in the main office and mark them for PE. We truly appreciate your support of our program.

Finally, we want to send out a Holmes PE Department thank you to Heather Wade for running a very successful lunchtime intramurals

PTA UPDATES

A Big Thank You To Families

The Holmes PTA would like to thank all of the families who joined and/or gave direct donations to the PTA this year. We received donations from \$2 to \$200. We appreciate the support of our great Holmes families, teachers, and staff! If you do not see your name on the list below and would like to join, download a form from our website www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~huh/ and drop it and your cash or check in the office PTA box or mail it to Holmes Junior High, 120 Drexel Dr. We are still happy to receive your applications. If we missed your name please let us know and we will include it in the next newsletter.

We'd like to thank:

Adamson J., Ahn H., Alali M.,
 Albertson, S., Alcalay, D., Aldredge B.,
 Allen-Sutter S., Amato J., Amesbury
 R., Anderson K., Andrews S., Anker H.,
 Aptekar-Cassels D&L., Archer C.,
 Armstrong M., Asera A., Ashdown
 A&D., Athens A&T., Aumann E.,
 Babich G., Bachand N., Baek A&B.,
 Bagheri K., Bailey I., Bala Vidya A.,
 Baxter R., Beck M., Bellamy W.,
 Benner M., Berk E., Berlin E., Best
 K&M., Billings E., Bert B., Blackwell H.,
 Blakeslee L., Blanc J., Blattner J&R,
 Block A., Blumenfeld L., Bolich A.,
 Bolle W., Borchers A., Borowsky A.,
 Brazil L., Brewer B., Broaddus J.,
 Bronzan P., Brown Z., Buchanan E.,
 Buck F., Bunfill A., Burr C., Busch M.,
 Butler W., Caceres P., Cajandig C.,
 Calhoun D., Campbell S., Carrera S.,
 Carriere M., Carter C., Cenzer J.,
 Chambers L., Chandler N., Chang L.,
 Chastain H., Chen M., Chinn C., Chuck
 K., Cole J., Collier H., Conant J.,
 Concha R., Cox M., Crawford B., Croft
 B., Cuerta J., D'Angleo B., Darrah T.,

Delplanque A., DeNardo D., Devanbu
 F., BeVarenes J., deVries M., Dhesi
 K., Dicker C&E., Dimon K., Donald I.,
 Donnelly K., Driscoll R&Z., Dufrense
 A., Ebeler W., Enriquez M., Ewens M.,
 Fadel E., Fader N., Fani F., Farman R.,
 Fettinger K., Fields R., Foley R.,
 Forsberg A., Fung S., Furlow A.,
 Gadam J., Gallawa E., Gao J&R.,
 Garrett S., Gegan L., Ghiglieri G.,
 Gitter J., Gladding J., Glaros A.,
 Glasgow R., Glazer P., Gloudeman R.,
 Godfryd L., Goldstein L., Goodman-
 Shaver D&L., Grabert N., Graves A.,
 Greenfield J., Gregg K., Greve G.,
 Griffith A., Grim J., Gunasekara A.,
 Haass O., Hansen R., Hanus G., Haro
 G., Harrison M., Hart C., Hartz L.,
 Hayakawa D., Hayes A., Heeren B.,
 Henderson P., Hernes A., Hicks C.,
 Hirst A., Hirzy K., Ho N., Holmes L.,
 Holtz C., Hong K., Hsu G., Hsuang A.,
 Hubbard J., Hunt-Murray Z., Huston
 G., Hwang R., Ibsen K., James L.,
 Jensen L., Jeremic P., Jiang A., Jin B.,
 Johnson N., Johnston C., Jolkovsky E.,
 Jones A., Jones C., Joseph B.,

Juanitas N&Z., Kaplan G., Kawaguchi T.,
 Kehr J., Kelly R., Khan M., Kim A., Kim,
 H., Kingscott W., Klein D., Klenzendorf
 K., Knoesen E., Koo M., Krasnansky K.,
 Krovetz A., Kubota C., Labbe-Renault R.,
 Lagattuta K., Lascher-posner A., Lau K.,
 Leal G., Lee-Smith C., Leigh A., Leverrier
 L., Levien H., Levin J., Lim J., Lipson S.,
 Little A., Liu-Ge J., Long P., Loy C&E.,
 Ma M., Maguire S., Malone D., Marigo
 B., Maroney S., Marsh D&S., Martin D.,
 Martinez A., Mayr M., McCarty C.,
 McHale H., McIntyre A., McTygue M.,
 Meadows-Smith R., Medina C.,
 Melendres G., Memon N., Meyers M.,
 Miller A., Miller J., Millstone W., Mitchel
 H., Moffatt Z., Mohr P., Morh-Tonachini
 G., Naverud A., Navarrot G., Navin A.,
 Neel A., Nelson H., Neustadt R., Newton
 M., Nijjar U&Z, Nunes N., O'Guinn J.,
 Oort B., Ouyang D., Papagni N., Paul R.,
 Paw U C., Peifer S., Perez D., Pesis S.,
 Petersen N., Pleasants D., Plotkin J.,
 Plude M., Plumb R., Poe P., Poland T.,
 Polis M., Powell R&T., Prendergast A.,

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Fundraiser Asks Parents To Stay At Home for Holmes

Please join us to Stay at Home for Holmes! In the upcoming weeks you will receive an invitation in the mail to join the PTA in our annual Un-Fundraiser, the Stay at Home for Holmes campaign. The idea is simple—we don't ask you to buy candy, wrapping paper, attend auctions or other such fundraisers. Instead we invite you to stay at home and make a direct donation to Holmes.

In past years, these donations have funded numerous programs, including over 250 library books, a complete extra set of math books so kids have one for school and one for home, LCD projectors, and much more. The goal of the Un-Fundraiser is to enrich the lives of and have a direct impact on EVERY student at Holmes. For

for supplemental educational activities, such as department-sponsored field trips that enhanced the classroom curriculum. This was such a success that the staff has asked us to do it again: provide funding so that EVERY student will have the opportunity to experience an outing that will augment their classroom learning and enrich their education.

Last year we raised over \$10,000 and we hope to raise this amount again. If each of Holmes' 650+ families donates \$16, we can reach our goal. We hope that you will help make our Un-Fundraiser a success by sending in your donation. Look for your invitation in the mail in the next few weeks!

Questions? Please contact Un-Fundraiser chair

Don't Be Party to Drinking

Are you on the list of over 500 parents who have made the pledge? Look for your name at DavisParentsDo.org.

The parent groups at Davis High and the junior high schools have launched a parent information campaign, aimed at informing the adult community of teen alcohol and drug use. Our hope is that as parents learn about the prevalence of substance/alcohol use and the risks, parents will take more active steps to prevent use by teens. Concerned parents are putting their names on a list of parents who pledge:

- To host only alcohol-free, tobacco-free and drug-free parties for teens
- To discourage teens from consuming alcohol, tobacco or other drugs in their home
- To discourage their teen(s) from attending unsupervised parties

If you sign this pledge your name will be included on the list of Davis families committed to preventing teen drug and alcohol use.

If you want to make this pledge, have questions or would like to join this committee, please contact a committee member:

Cathy Farman, cfarman@sbcglobal.net; Cathy Sacks, cjsacks@comcast.net; Ellen Mark, ellenmark89@yahoo.com; Mary James, jamesclan@sbcglobal.net

Parent Tip: Don't leave your teen unsupervised overnight on the weekends. In Davis, students find out whose house is without parents and that house becomes the designated party house. Have your teen stay with a friend. Notify your neighbors that your house will be empty.

Discussion topic with your teen: Ask your student if s/he has heard of parents who leave a teen alone for the weekend. Do they know of parties that got out of hand? What would your teen do if that happened?

Big Thanks

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Price M., Prieditis K., Prince K., Quinn A., Rackerby M., Ratnasiri K., Ravini S., Raven B, Ray G., Raychaudhuri S., Renaud A., Riaz U., Richey G., Riggle C., Riley K., Rizzo A&C., Roberson J&W., Roberts S., Robinson K., Rose G., Roy M., Rubenking J., Rutheiser J., Safford D., Sanders I., Sayfan S., Scalettar J., Schladow G., Schlosser M., Schwab L., Serdahl N., Shelledy G., Sherwin J., Shin Y., Siegel A., Silver N., Simon S., Simpson C., Siu S., Slabach K., Slabaugh T., Smallwood N., Smith L, Smith S., Smith S., Sommer C., Sorensen A., Spann C., Stahl S., Stapleton C.,

Stombler-Levine M., Strachan-Payne Z., Straw C., Strickland K., Sumner H., Sundaresan J., Szumski D., Tanaka C., Testerman J., Thompson G., Tibor P., Tsang D., Tutt D., Ushakova A., Vaeworn K., Van School R., VanVorhis E., Vargas C., Verdiguel A., Wagoner C., Walche G., Walker W., Wang J., Waters K., Webster C., Wetzlich E., Wheeler N., Wiebe C., Willefert K., Williams M., Williams Q., Williamson M., Wilson A., Wilson R., Wiscombe P., Wolf A., Wolfe N., Wong E., Woodard R., Wright J., Yang E., Yang M., Yankelevich A., Yeaman M., Yee I., Yi C., Yoo T., Young J., Young P., Yu H., Zhao M., Zheng S., Zhou J., Zhu B., Zhu D. and Zufelt M.

following teachers and staff for joining the PTA and/or making donations to the PTA:

Jolanda Blackwell, Derek Brothers, Kathy Bryant, Teresa. Delgadillo, Mike Dufresne, Mindy Dufresne, Pam Eimers, Georgine Fritz, Scott Grensted, Kris Harvey, Dianna Henrickson, Kerri Hogan, Michael Inchausti, Kerin Kelleher, Jean Kennedy, Kris King, Pat King, Amy Labson, Caroline LaFlamme, Joanna Littell, Debbie Martin, Karen Moore, Lisa Mowry, Leeana Neely, Ashley Nelson, Cheryl Ozga, Martha Quenon, Clyde Quick, Jeanne Reeve, Paul Rooney, Kathy Russell, Jennifer Sommer, Cindy True, Heather Wade

Parent Education News

The Secondary Schools Parent Education Committee (a joint project of Da Vinci Charter Academy, Davis High, Emerson, Harper, and Holmes Junior High parent groups) is planning a full year of parent education nights. Some of the dates have changed since our last announcement, so be sure to mark your calendars for:

Wednesday, January 13, 2010—event cancelled

Wednesday, February 10, 2010—Time Management for Teens

Details to be announced, Holmes Junior High School, 1220 Drexel Boulevard

Wednesday, March 10, 2010—Talking to Teens about Sex

Details to be announced, Harper Junior High School, 4000 East Covell Boulevard

Wednesday, April 7, 2010—Community College Options

Don Palm, Dean of Sacramento City College Davis Campus, 7:30 p.m., Davis High School Library. 315 W. 14th Street, Davis

For information or to help organize, please contact a committee member: Emerson PTA Coordinator, Anne Happel, atnchappel@gmail.com; Holmes PTA Coordinator, Anne Finkelston, afinkelston@sbcglobal.net; Harper Junior High PTO, Ann Moylan, moylan@csus.edu.

Counselors: Have Conversation About Bullies

Counselors met with 7th grade classes in October and presented an animated PowerPoint slide show which guided discussion regarding the issue of bullying. Bullying is not just a junior high problem. How does one deal with one person or group exerting threatening behaviors toward another person or group? Certainly, doing nothing is always a choice. What are the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups? We invite discussion around the dinner table among parents/guardians and children. Perhaps the following information will help get you started.

When talking with students about bullying, it is helpful to define the categories referred to in the discussion. Bullying is not just a matter of "pushing around" in a physical way. It is the use of cultural values like physical strength, beauty, technology, street smarts, popularity, information, intelligence, weapons, social skills, verbal ability, or economic status to gain power over another person.

The defining criteria for bullying lies in the relationship between the bully and the victim as well as in the intent of the interaction. The seriousness of the bullying episode depends on the harm done to the victim. The victim is the only one who can determine whether the action is bullying or teasing.

Boys are more apt to use physical strength and verbal intimidation. Girls, on the other hand, use social exclusion and isolation, gossip and rumors, and put-downs of clothing, body shape and socio-economic status. Boys are known to bully both boys and girls. Girls who bully almost always bully only other girls.

In classroom presentations, we use the following categories to stimulate discussion among students:

The victim is the only one who can determine whether the action is bullying or teasing.

Physical Bullies use action by touching, poking, hitting. This kind of bully is known for violating another's body through unwelcome touches or damaging property. The bully acts tough.

Verbal Bullies use words to hurt and humiliate through name calling, racial slurs, rumors or persistent teasing. This kind of bully also uses sexually suggestive and/or homophobic comments to intimidate others.

Relational Bullies convince their peers to exclude or reject someone who is a former friend through rumors, gossip and verbal attacks. The use of exclusion and cutting someone off from their social connections is most often experienced in relationships between girls.

Reactive Bullies taunt, tease and invite reaction from another in order to create confusion about who the victim might really be. Often the reactive bully is a victim in other situations and just looking for a fight or reaction so that a claim for self-defense can be made.

We remind students that bullies love secrets. That is part of the intimidation. The bully dares you to tell. Help your children seek the support they need to help themselves or to help someone they have observed being bullied. Tell a friend, a parent, a teacher or counselor. Tell someone! Tell until you get the help and support you need to stop the bullying.

Donated Books Help Invisible Children

Holmes is participating in a book drive to raise funds and awareness for the Invisible Children movement, calling attention to the ongoing crimes against humanity involving the murder and abduction of children in Northern Uganda.

You can help us by donating used and new books. The books will be sent to create a library for a school in Uganda. Our goal is to collect 5,000 books. We can accept all new or used books EXCEPT junior high/elementary school textbooks, encyclopedias, or romance novels. We especially want current edition college textbooks (less than 10 years old), fiction and nonfiction. Help us meet this goal by sending this message out to your friends and family. Books can be dropped off at the main office at Holmes until December 21.

For more information, contact Joanna Littell, counselor at Holmes, by email at jlittell@djUSD.k12.ca.us. You can also go to the Invisible Children website at: <http://www.invisiblechildren.com/about/ourStory>.

Reminder

We only have 150 yearbooks left to sell. Don't forget to order your 09/10 yearbook before December 8th. Order forms are available in the office; cost is \$37.

Hospitality Help Needed

The Hospitality Committee is recruiting volunteers to help with the various hospitality events which take place at Holmes throughout the year. If you are interested in helping with one of the staff appreciation lunches (January 25 and June 11), or with staff appreciation week (May 3-7, 2010), or if you have an idea for a new event, we would love to talk with you.

Please contact either Alden LeVerrier or Sally Albertson if you would like to join our team. Thank you.

Blue Devil Pride

Davis High Stadium is being renovated . . . after 50 years of faithful service to the community and to generations of Davis Blue Devils, Halden Field has finally undergone some major modernization, but there is still work to be done.

The bleachers, bathrooms and concessions need serious capacity, function and accessibility overhauls. So think "Blue Devil Pride" . . . not just for yourself but for the generations to come, and give generously to finish the project. Be part of the future, part of the Big Blue Machine and give today. Visit www.dhsblueandwhite.org and find out how you too can be part of the solution. Go Blue Devils!

New Clubs for Students

Two technology clubs have started meeting this fall. The Robot Club meets every other Wednesday at lunch and every Thursday after school, from 3:25 to 4:15, in the computer lab (E-34). Students learn about robots and how to control them by writing programs. There are Parallax Boebots, Scribblers, and Sumo-bots, as well as a Lego NXT for students to use. We will organize some friendly competitions this year. All students are welcome, no experience necessary.

Pivoteers is a brand new club for students interested in computer animation. We use the free program, Pivot Stick Figure Animator. Students meet at lunch on Thursdays in room E-34 (the computer lab). This club is open to any interested 7th or 8th grade student. Ninth graders who want to work with Pivot are welcome in the computer lab on Wednesdays at lunch.

For more information about either club, contact Ms. Sommer at jesommer@djud.k12.ca.us.

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Holmes Junior High School
1220 Drexel Dr.
Davis CA 95616