

August 2009

SJND Welcomes Cook as New Assistant Principal



Catherine Cook joins the faculty at Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School as Assistant Principal of Academics. Along with the Principal, the Assistant Principal coordinates all phases of policy implementation related to academics, instruction, and curriculum. Cook will coordinate the program of supervision, evaluation and professional development of the faculty, lead the development of the curriculum and instructional program, oversee the counseling program, instructional technology integration and training, and lead the special needs and summer school programs.

Originally from Canada, Cook holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Philosophy from the University of Western Ontario and earned her Masters Degree in Education (MSEd) from Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.

Cook has been a high school English, AP and ESL teacher for over ten years. She has also held an administrative position out of the Contra Costa County Office of Education for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, which helps underrepresented students to achieve their college dreams. During her time there, Cook coached seven high schools and three middle schools in implementing the AVID program, as well as created and led professional development programs for educators for four years. She has also designed standards based curriculum, in-serviced teachers and administrators in successful methods of teaching reading, writing and study skills, developed and delivered tutor and mentor training, as well as taught adults in a community college setting for three years.

Cook is in her third year of a doctoral program in Educational Leadership at Saint Mary's College. The focus of her dissertation is new teacher preparation for the modern urban classroom through the acquisition of intercultural competence. "Issues of access and promoting underrepresented populations have been a significant component of my personal and professional life work. The doctoral program has afforded me an opportunity to keep abreast of best practices in education and technology as well as to confirm my commitment to data driven decision making," says Cook.

"Cook's skills and experience are a strong match for our educational team," says SJND Principal, Simon Chiu, "she's a welcome addition to this campus where academic excellence, moral values, and community service are cultivated by our faculty."

Cook looks forward to returning to Alameda with her son, where she previously resided for seven years while working at San Leandro High School.

Orientation Dates Are Coming Up

Orientation is just around the corner. Please remember that orientation is a required day of school. Everyone must attend in school uniform, except the seniors. Students will receive their student handbooks, student ID cards and will learn about any changes for the school year. Reminder to all parents—you and your student are required to read the handbook and be familiar with all school policies. When you have both finished reading the handbook, please sign and return the signature page indicating your agreement to abide by the school rules. The students need this handbook for the entire school year. If a student needs a replacement, there is a small charge for printing extra copies of the book. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kuznik at jkuznik@sjnd.org

SJND Students Travel to Europe



This summer, 18 SJND students started their vacation off with a bang by traveling to Italy, Greece, and Turkey. After an 18 hour plane ride, the group touched down in Rome. There, they met up with students from Modesto and traveled all over Italy visiting the Vatican, the Colosseum, Florence, and the island of Capri. They then took an overnight ferry that transported the students to Greece to see the Acropolis and experience a traditional Greek celebration with dinner and dancing. The travelers spent their final four days cruising the Greek Islands with one afternoon in Turkey. Though the students are preparing to return to school, their memories of this summer will last a lifetime. If you are interested in traveling abroad,

please contact the following faculty members for these 09-10 trips. Spring Break in Costa Rica-Ms. Stone - kstone@sjnd.org Spring Break in France-Ms. Schute - aschute@sjnd.org Summer in Portugal and Spain-Ms. Dlugosh jdlugosh@sjnd.org

Band Plays in Fourth of July Parade

Twenty SJND band members participated in Alameda's Annual Fourth of July Parade. With capes in place and instruments in hand, the mighty Pilot Superheroes floated onto the streets of Alameda for two hours of non-stop music and energetic waving. Parade revelers cheered for more music, and the musicians met the challenge by playing music ranging from swing jazz to Michael Jackson. SJND's music director, Ms. Cekola and choral director, Mrs. Kubicek, were also on board. The event helped raise \$500 for the music department. The float was a fan favorite and came in third place. Cekola stated, "Even though the float placed third this year, many who saw the float said we looked and sounded the best."



Ultimately, there really isn't anything more fun than wearing a superhero cape and costume in front of hundreds of people."

Fong '11 Attends International HOBY Conference



SJND teachers nominated Elliot Fong '11 to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference at UC Davis this summer. Founded in 1958, HOBY's mission is to inspire and develop the global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. HOBY programs provide youth selected by their schools to participate in unique leadership training, service-learning and motivation-building experiences. After participating in the conference, Fong was one of four chosen to represent the conference at the World Leaders Congress (WLC) in Washington, D.C. The WLC provides youth with training in leadership skills and capacity building. Students are exposed to a distinguished group of leaders from various sectors in business, government, international affairs, science and technology, medicine, media, and education. HOBY's student ambassadors leave the WLC more mature individuals, more aware of the world around them, and more empowered to make meaningful contributions to their communities. Fong's mother states, "Elliot learned a lot and met many students from other countries. We are grateful for all the teachers and counselors who recommended him to represent SJND."

Flores '10 Represents Alameda at Boys State Conference

Gabriel Flores '10 successfully completed the American Legion California Golden Boys' State Citizenship Program held at Sacramento State University this June. The program is conducted by professionals and teaches youth the duties, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. Each young man is assigned to a city. They then set up their city, county and state governments, and govern them in accordance with California laws and the state Constitution. They participate in political parties, elect officials, adjudicate legal issues in their courts, and operate police departments and newspapers. Flores earned the position of the city's newspaper editor. Flores was sponsored by the Alameda American Legion Post # 647. He was nominated by his teachers and then chosen by the Post from a pool of highly qualified candidates to participate. The Post selects their candidates based upon their achievements in academics, school and community activities, leadership, and character.



Future Pilots Participate in Summer Discovery Camps

SJND's Summer Discovery Program allows students in grades 5-8 participate in academic classes and athletic camps. This summer, the program offered volleyball and basketball camps for all ages. SJND Head volleyball coach, Eddie Chen states, "This year was my third year of camps and we had a really great turnout of campers and players to help out. The summer

program is something that I really enjoy putting on because not only do I get to teach new players how to play volleyball, but I also get to catch up with the alumni and current players that come to help out. It's like a volleyball family reunion for me with players from the past and the present as we take some time to work with the future. They all do a great job.”



Transportation Information

Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School is located in the East Bay on the island of Alameda, next to Oakland. There is easy access to the school from various points within the Bay Area.

Driving Directions

From Hwy 880 driving north take the High Street exit west to Encinal. Turn right (north) and continue approximately one mile to Chestnut and turn left. The SJND campus is located one block down from Encinal.

From Hwy 880 driving south take the 23rd Avenue exit, stay straight to go onto Kennedy Street for .5 miles, Turn slight right onto 23rd Avenue, turn slight right onto 29th Avenue, 29th Avenue becomes Park Street, turn right onto Encinal Avenue for .6 miles, turn left onto Chestnut Street.

SJND Carpool Website

Families interested in joining or providing carpools should register on the site: <http://sjndcarpools.erideshare.com/>. Please use the User Password: alasj to log into the site. All of your information is secure and private. Only families who have asked to participate are given the log in information. Once you are registered, keep checking for other families willing to participate. If you have questions, please contact Jean Kuznik, Assistant Principal of Student Life at 510-995-9442.

Discounted Bus and BART Passes Available

AC Transit offers bus service throughout the city of Alameda. To get to the high school from the Fruitvale BART station, take bus # 51 to Chestnut and Santa Clara Streets. From there it is a 3-block walk east on Chestnut Street to the SJND campus.

Discounted student BART and AC Transit tickets may be purchased in the main office. Please contact Ms. Alexander in the main office at 510-523-1526.

Retreat Time Valuable for Student Leaders

The Student Life program was busy during summer vacation. The young men and women of the Executive Board planned and executed their annual leadership retreat. The theme this year was “SJND Students Are Effective Communicators.” This year, the team took a different approach to learning leadership roles. Along with the division moderators, the Executive Board headed east to Mount Diablo State Park. The emphasis of the retreat was extreme team building and extreme fun. They learned the importance of planning, communicating, decision making, values, vision, and how to build effective teams. They were also reminded how important it is to be accountable—each meal was the responsibility of a different class council. They enjoyed creating memories of hiking, camping, and training modules. Each council is well on their way to providing an amazing school year for their classmates.