



October 1, 2007

Dear Parents,

I know that this e-letter falls close on the heels of my first letter of the year. This letter will focus heavily on providing information about upcoming events at the Senior School. I aim to connect you with your child's experience here at the Senior School. Our partnership in educating your child is central to our mutual successes.

On October 13 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Seniors interested in becoming more skilled leaders can choose to join Dave Szlachetka, Karen Serdy, and me in a workshop focused on helping students learn to lead. We will provide lunch. Students received an e-mail about this on September 19 from Dave Szlachetka. We know from the research that leaders are made, not born, and we need to make sure we are helping our budding leaders develop the skills and judgment necessary to be successful leaders both here and in the future.

On October 17, the Sixth Form will participate in a morning session of College Counseling Workshop. The Sixth Form students will work with the College Counselors and various teachers to work on essays, applications, and the other work of applying to college. The Fifth and Fourth Forms will spend the class day taking the PSAT. For the Fifth Form, this test is the score from which National Merit Commended Scholars and National Merit Semifinalists will be selected. For the Fourth Form, the test is a practice for the Fifth Form year. The Third Form will spend the morning taking the ISEE Field Test. This test allows us to gain some statistical data about the incoming class and the individuals in it. We hope to use this information to better support our students as they transition into the Senior School.

On October 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rauh Theater, we will have the public performance of San Jose Taiko, part of our Hillman Center for Performing Arts Series. Senior School students will see San Jose Taiko during the day at a special assembly and the group will perform again in the evening. Tickets are available for the evening performance by calling ProArts Charge-By-Phone at 412-394-3353 or www.ProArtsTickets.org. Visit <http://www.shadysideacademy.org/arts/hillman.html> for more detail

On October 22 at 7 p.m. in the Kountz Theater, we will offer, in conjunction with the Parents Association, a Third and Fourth Form Parent Education Program: Understanding (and Parenting) Your Adolescent Teen. Karen Serdy and I will spend an hour talking about how the brains of adolescents work, presenting some ideas to consider when working with your child, and discussing several scenarios that you might experience as the parent. We hope the evening will be interesting, informative, and interactive.

On October 29 at 7 p.m. in the Kountz Theater, we will offer, in conjunction with the Parents Association, Fifth and Sixth Form Parent Education Program: Understanding (and Parenting) Your Adolescent Teen. The goal of this event is similar to that of the October 22 event. The difference will be mostly around some of the scenarios we discuss and the types of discussion topics we will cover. The Senior School years are times of tremendous change and thinking of that change incrementally helps us deal with the particulars of each phase most effectively.

As we are now through the opening of school and well into the substance of the first term, I know students and parents alike are busy with the seasonal activities and into the routine of school. Although some of the initial excitement of the year may have worn off, we need to keep our focus on the goal of helping our students learn and grow. With the first round of papers being returned and the mid-term check-in grades on the horizon, our students and teachers are busy at the work of learning. Thank you for your thought and feedback about any and all things here at the Senior School and I hope you are all doing well.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy LaCasse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeremy LaCasse