

# Eighth Grade Newsletter

Sunnyvale Middle School



## KEEPING YOUR DREAM ALIVE

By Mr. "G"

The 2009-2010 school year is well under way. At the time of this article, we are half-way towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester. Schedule changes have been finalized, teachers have accurate class lists, and students have found their friends and have made new ones.

As you begin your final year here at SMS, it is important to keep your personal "**Dream**" alive. Set your "Goals" now for the future and try not to get discouraged if you have one bad day!

"**Believe**" that the Goals you set can be reached. Trust yourself and tap into your strengths. Don't let anyone stand in your way or tell you that you can't do it. Turn those negative comments into Positive action and show them that you CAN do it. Finally, once you have set Goals for yourself, it is up to you to "**Achieve It**". It may not be so easy—it will take a lot of hard work so prepare for it now. Simply do your **Personal Best**! Don't be afraid to ask your teacher for help if you are having difficulty understanding. Be sure to commit to doing all of your Homework and Classwork assignments daily—this is where many students fall. Plan to read at least 20 minutes per night—this will help your ability to comprehend those massive History and Science text books.

It is my hope that if you take these suggestions seriously, you will be successful in High School and throughout your Educational years. I look forward to working with you and supporting you throughout the school year.

If you need anything at all, please know that I am here for you.

Welcome Back to another exciting and challenging school year! I hope to see you on June 17<sup>th</sup> on that Graduation Stage.  
**TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP YOUR DREAM ALIVE!!!!**





### Ms. Arms

I'm Linda Arms born and raised in east San Jose and still consider it my home.

I've been at SMS for four years, helping 6<sup>th</sup> graders learn their way around SMS and 8<sup>th</sup> graders learning how to be successful in high school.

I am one of the W.A.M club advisors because I love the wilderness and adventure. Summers find me doing fun new things in the wilds. I've spent 3 weeks studying and photographing grizzly bears in Alaska. This summer I hiked and kayaked in the Canadian Rockies; and June 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 I headed to the Galapagos Islands for 11 days....it was a dream come true.

Stop by E12 and visit. Good luck and have a great fun year Spartans



### Mr. Vedar

Greetings! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my excitement about working with your child this year. My name is Lawrence Vedar, and I am originally from a 300 year-old town named Hermosa located on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. I arrived in the United States in 1976 and first lived on Treasure Island when it was still a military base before moving permanently to San Francisco a few years later. Hungry for a change of venue, I moved to San Diego where I eventually earned degrees in both English and History. Today, my wife and I are happy to be back in the Bay Area where we spend our free time enjoying all that life has to offer.

I love teaching history because I believe that students can grow and develop by examining the issues we cover in class. This looks to be a very busy, exciting, and fun year. Students will be learning history through a variety of ways: reading, writing, open forums, formal debates, interactive simulations, hands-on activities, games and projects. I encourage students and parents to contact me if they have any questions or concerns



### Mrs. Asato

Ms. Joanne Asato has been teaching math at SMS since 2001. Prior to pursuing a teaching career, Ms. Asato worked in the pharmaceutical and high-technology industries. She is married with two elementary school-aged children and a stepson, who is an alumni of SMS when it was Sunnyvale Junior High School



### Ms. Hamelberg

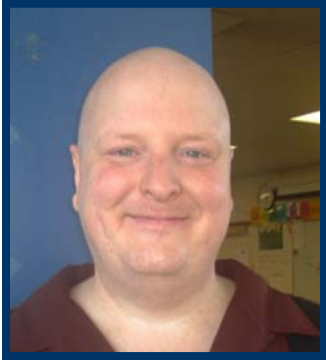
This year I am teaching 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade *Language!*

I am originally from the Midwest, born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, where my parents still live. Before moving to the Bay Area, I lived in the small town of Cottonwood, California for 16 years, which is in northern California near Redding, north of Sacramento. I have two children who are in college--a son who is 19 and a daughter who is 21 and will be graduating in June from UCLA.

I have a B.A. in English, an M.A. in education with an emphasis in reading, a multiple subject teaching credential, and a single subject teaching credential in English. I taught for six years before coming to Sunnyvale Middle School. I first began teaching reading in elementary school in grades one through five, then jumped to the high school level, teaching English, reading, and English Language Development for four years. I have now landed in middle school, and am enjoying it very much. I'm very fond of all my students!

My favorite pastime is reading, my favorite color is blue, my favorite foods include steak, lobster, and pizza, and I'm a big fan of football!





### Mr. Fultz

John Fultz is an English Teacher who grew up in Kentucky, lived in Chicago for a while, and moved to California in 1998. When he is not teaching, he writes fiction for magazines such as BLACK GATE, WEIRD TALES, and SPACE & TIME, as well as comic books for various publishers. His graphic novel of epic fantasy, PRIMORDIA, is published by Archaia Comics. He is about to finish revising the “big fantasy novel” he wrote last summer, SEVEN PRINCES. Mr. Fultz loves music, plays guitar, and is a life-long comic book fan. This year he is running the first-ever SMS COMICS CLUB, and has convinced his favorite comics store (Comics Conspiracy) to donate a bunch of comics! KUNG FU is his all-time favorite TV show.



### Mr. Roberts

Mr. Roberts is in his 12<sup>th</sup> (?) (He has lost count) year here at SMS. A product of Henry T. Gage Junior High in Huntington Park, CA, he now lives in the Santa Cruz Mountains with his wife, two daughters and two, almost worthless, cats. But wait, there's more. Mr. Roberts is excited to be on the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team this year teaching Science in the House that includes Mr. Fultz and Mr. Vedar. This year it IS rocket science. Mr. Roberts is also the advisor for the Historical Miniature Game Club (a non-profit organization bent on imaginary world domination). He enjoys reading, playing games, and coaching softball with Mr. Realini. Last year, Mr. Roberts decided to become a Giants fan. As an avid Padres fan, it seems only right since two of the Giants' coaches are from the Padres. The Forty-Niners are on probation and the Raiders, never. Some lines just won't be crossed.

### Mrs. Smare

Susie Smare is a veteran science teacher in the Sunnyvale School District. She is convinced that all students can learn, and that her job is to pour as much knowledge of science as possible into their receptive brains. After many years, Mrs. Smare still enjoys teaching because each year is new and different, and she still enjoys seeing the surprised expressions when the first hydrogen balloon explodes. On a personal note, Susie is married to a high school teacher and soccer coach. The rest of the family includes three children, three grandchildren and two dogs. The first trimester of eighth grade science is a very important one because students are building a foundation of chemistry. This involves knowledge of elements, compounds, and mixtures as well as atoms and molecules. We will be building on this foundation during the second trimester as we focus more on types of reactions.



### Mrs. Winegar

Mrs. Winegar has been teaching at SMS since 1994. She is teaching Algebra Enriched to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8 graders. They are currently working on learning how to solve equations and inequalities. She also teaches PreAlgebra IB to 8<sup>th</sup> graders they are learning their integer rules, fraction rules, and solving simple equations.

In her spare time, she likes to read a book at the beach or snow ski in the mountains. She has a son (23) and a daughter (28) and a wonderful husband, Tom. She loves math and coaches the Math club along with Ms Asato on Weds. at lunch time in room F-2.



### Just for Fun Math Problem:

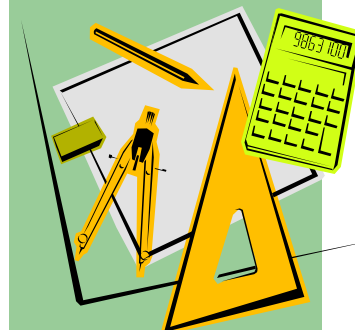
Bobo and his friends, Lobo and Sobo went to a convention and stayed in a room at a cheap hotel. When they checked in, the desk clerk told them that the price of the room would be \$30, so they each paid with a \$10 bill and went up to their room to rest.

Later, the manager of the hotel discovered that the desk clerk had overcharged Bobo and his friends. The hotel was offering a discount for the convention, so the room was supposed to be only \$25. The manager handed the bellboy five one-dollar bills and told him to take them up to the men.

One the way up to their room, the bellboy decided that he could get away with a little money for himself. He knew that the three men would have trouble splitting up five one-dollar bills, so he put two of the dollars into his own pocket. When he got to the room, he told them that hey had been overcharged and gave them each a dollar.

This means that Bobo, Lobo, and Sobo each paid only nine dollars for the room and the bellboy has two dollars. But  $\$9 \times 3 = \$27$  and  $\$27 + \$2 = \$29$ .

So what happened to the other dollar? Write an explanation on a piece of paper and **check your answer with Mrs. Winegar in Room E-6.**





### Mr. Realini

This begins my 7<sup>th</sup> Year at Sunnyvale Middle School, my 11<sup>th</sup> year of teaching after a 30 year career as a US Army Special Forces Officer. I'm excited again to be teaching 8<sup>th</sup> Graders about United States History and showing them how to understand and appreciate how our country was born and more importantly how we grew into a new world power by the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As the Advisor to the Student Council and teacher for the Leadership Elective, we look forward to the myriad of outstanding opportunities to have fun, reward and recognize student achievement, and provide opportunities to serve our Sunnyvale Community. This year we will be making significant upgrades to the quality of our daily Spartan TV program made possible by the hard work of the students and the generosity of the PTSA. This Spring Break I will be taking another expedition to Washington DC for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and if you are interested about how to make it happen, come and talk to me. Room E9 is always open, come by and chat or go to my school website for a wealth of historical and student activity information. GO SPARTANS!



### Mr. Hernandez

Mr. Hernandez is back and ready for another great year. He is celebrating his 9th year at SMS. He was Sunnyvale Middle Schools 2008-09 Teacher of the Year. Aside from his teaching duties at SMS, he coaches 5 sports for the Spartans including; cross country, wrestling, boys and girls soccer as well as track and field. He also serves as an Athletic director. Mr. Hernandez is a watersport and motorcycle sport participant. He is a die hard San Jose Sharks fan!

Upcoming units in class include: H2O polo, volleyball and fitness testing. He would like to see his students keep up the good work and continue putting their best foot forward. Parents can help out by asking questions about class, proofreading and signing homework and encouraging students to do their best in class.

#### PE WISH LIST: New and Used:

soccer balls/basketballs/youth footballs, mits, bats, volleyballs, tennis racquets, portable cd boomboxes. We will take most any lightly used equipment.

### Mrs. Kruze

Mrs. Kruze teaches all of the computer classes at SMS as well as the Yearbook class. This is the beginning of her 7<sup>th</sup> year at SMS. She also taught for 15 years at Detroit Country Day School in suburban Detroit, MI.

Mrs. Kruze is a HUGE opera fan and spends time volunteering with the San Francisco Lyric Opera. She also volunteers at Muscular Dystrophy Camp in Occidental, CA every summer.

Mrs. Kruze loves to travel and is a big Detroit Red Wings hockey fan. GO WINGS!!!

