

Pacific Grove High School

Counseling Office

December 2008

This newsletter is intended to bring you information regarding upcoming tests, scholarships, college visits and open houses, careers information resources. For more information students should stop by the Counseling Office or visit the school's web site @ pghs.org.

Financial Aid Process

Seniors - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms are available on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. For faster, easier service FAFSA applications should be submitted soon after January 1st. Applications are due no later than March 2nd.

There will be an informative Financial Aid Night for senior students and parents on January 7th 2009.

Scholarships

Students need to check in the Counseling Office for available scholarships. Information is also available on the school's website under the Counseling link. New scholarships arrive weekly so check back frequently.

Some colleges offer scholarships specifically from their institutions. Be sure to check with your colleges. You may need to apply for these scholarships with the college before you receive an acceptance letter.

SAT & ACT Information

Juniors should have all the necessary SAT's and/or ACT completed by the end of their junior year. This will give them time to repeat tests, if necessary, during the fall of their senior year, (December may be too late for some colleges). The Counseling Office recommends that students take the college entrance exams at least twice to ensure the best results since colleges will take the best scores.

However, in some cases, students taking the SAT Subject Tests may want to test earlier. For example, if a student chooses World History for one of the subject tests, the student should take the World History test in late spring of their **sophomore** year, while the subject matter is fresh.

Test Dates

The upcoming SAT and ACT test dates are as follows:

Next SAT: January 24; March 14

Registration deadline: December 26, and February 10 respectively

Next ACT: February 7

Registration deadline: January 6

Students can register on-line. Students can also go on-line for practice tests and study materials at www.collegeboard.com www.act.org www.testprepreview.com for no charge.

Junior and Senior Stay-Over Program at UC Irvine!

Juniors and seniors who are considering attending UC Irvine for their undergraduate education can participate in the Stay-Over Program at UC Irvine. This program offers students the opportunity to see if UC Irvine is the campus for them. Participants will experience university life first hand by staying the night in the residence halls with a current UCI undergraduate student. During their stay, students will experience life in the residence halls, have meals in the dining commons, attend their host's classes, and learn more about the various clubs, activities, and resources that UC Irvine has to offer. In short, become a college student for a day!

Program runs January 14 through March 5. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee, which includes two meals at the dining commons and the Stay-Over Program tee shirt. A limited number of scholarships are available for students with extreme financial hardship. For more information call (949) 824-5167, e-mail UCI at sop@uci.edu or visit their website: http://www.housing.uci.edu/sop/guest_how.asp

