

VOLUME 7 - APRIL 2022

SAC EXCLUSIVE

The Official SCUSD Student Advisory Council Newsletter

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RAMADAN

Mayani Bowens (George Washington Carver HS)

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the name of the ninth month in the Islamic calendar.

It's a month-long religious holiday for Muslims and serves as a time for self-reflection and for strengthening an individual's relationship with God. The religious holiday involves fasting (abstaining from food, drink, etc.), praying, donating to charity and being around loved ones.

Over 1.6 billion Muslims all over the world participate in fasting every year!

When is Ramadan?

Ramadan is dictated by the lunar cycle which begins and ends each month with a crescent moon. The exact starting day is not known each year until a new crescent moon is spotted, which this year, occurred on Friday, April 1st in Saudi Arabia. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset every day until the sighting of the new crescent moon, signaling the entering of a new month and the end of Ramadan.

Ramadan Mubarack to those that celebrate!

And remember to be kind if you are fasting and be kind to those fasting around you!





SAC APPLICATIONS

Jacqueline Zhang (JFK HS)

The Student Advisory Council application is open for the 2022-2023 school year! The SAC members are the people behind this newsletter, as well as people who work hard on making a difference in the district through policy change. If you are passionate about your education and see issues that you would like to change, we highly encourage you to apply to become part of the cohort in the coming school year.

The Student Advisory Council meets every Wednesday, and we mostly work on the newsletter and our initiatives. Initiatives can include school budgeting suggestions, school curriculum, post-college resources, and more. The SAC is a grassroots organization that focuses on gathering a wide range of students' voices.

If you would like to join the cohort next school year, there are two positions that you may apply for; **Student Board Member (SBM)** and **SAC representatives**. The SBM of the district attends SCUSD board of education meetings (usually) twice a month. They serve as the representative of 40,000+ students in the district. Their duty includes voicing students' perspectives on meeting items, changing board policies, initiating change through presentations and resolutions, etc. We are looking for a dedicated Junior or Senior with a passion for policy change.

SAC representatives have a slightly lower time commitment. Members are required to attend weekly meetings and work on initiative work as a group. SBM will also take part in these meetings. Joining the SAC is a valuable work experience that looks good in college applications. Being a part of this cohort, I have learned important skills that are applicable in future work environments, such as how to work with a team and how to propose change as a community. For more information visit this link: [application](#)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xdcU8TcPLZRZZPoRt20uQJTAn2k9Dcc6hP4gw536Xj8/edit?usp=sharing>

Email Dr. Mark Carnero (Mark-Carnero@scusd.edu) with any questions!



STUDENT-OWNED BUSINESSES

Jade Fears (Rosemont HS)

Because of the pandemic, it is difficult for many to get a job and money—especially teenagers. Recently, many teenagers have started a business to make money on their side or to help their families. I am also one of them.

This year, I applied for a job, but it wasn't accepted, and I ran out of money. So I decided to try to be creative and started making jewelry. I began to manufacture and sell bracelets, key chains, necklaces, etc. I didn't expect much when I started, but soon I realized that kids at school wanted it, and it has since sold well.

Take a chance on yourself and capitalize on your creativity!

Here are some free links to get you started:

[5 Free Online Entrepreneurship Classes](#)

[19 Youth Entrepreneurship Programs \(Competitions, Curriculum, & More\)](#)

[23+ Free Entrepreneur Lesson Plans](#)

[SBA Learning Platform - Tools for Women Starting Small Businesses](#)





DEALING WITH COLLEGE REJECTION

Mayani Bowens (George Washington Carver HS)

So you've been rejected from a college.

No matter if you're used to it or not, whether it was a dream college or a safety school, dealing with rejection isn't easy.

Here are some ways you may have been dealing with the disappointing news:

Approach 1: Being in denial

Using phrases such as, "No, this can't be" or "There must've been a mistake"

Approach 2: Making excuses

Using phrases such as, "Their acceptance rate is ridiculously low" or "I didn't really try on my personal essay"

Approach 3: Bad-mouthing

Using phrases similar to, "It's a bad school anyway, I didn't even really want to go there"

Advice/ My Personal Ways of Coping:

1: Try not to dwell on it.

While a college decision is a significant step towards the future and your education is important, we shouldn't forget that not everything in life needs to be taken seriously. There will be better opportunities!

2: Understanding that the rejection isn't personal.

You shouldn't feel judged over the personal statement/essay you wrote. It's difficult for most to convey themselves genuinely on paper so don't feel like it's something personal against you. Most application prompts aren't the most helpful for coming up with intriguing talking points about your life either.

3: Remember to be proud of yourself for even applying!



"GARDEN"

Sky Tusé (West Campus HS)

If I could weed out all my worries,
As good gardeners always do,
Then I'd plant in their place
A floral space
To leave behind for you.

And in the stead of comforting
My hollow, bitter sighs,
You could dedicate,
Affectionate,
Your efforts to their lives.

But here there is no blooming plaza,
Picturesque and framed with rose,
Only the thistle 'fested gravel path
Whose sides are swathed in mold.

Hunched over on the iron bench
Whose cold rust's soft to me,
I hear the growing chanting
Of the gravel 'neath your feet.
With gentle, worn, and withered hands
Who've fought the thorny vines
That guard my sickly heart
You touch my chin
And lift my eyes.

"How parasitic is my love
To guide your selfless efforts here,
When not a single bud or bloom
That's worth your time has sprouted near?"

A smile resting on your face
I fight to see as my eyes bear;
"The only flower in this garden
That would matter
Is right here."

(dedicated to his boyfriend)



PICKING THE BEST COLLEGE FOR YOU

Gabriela Galan (Sac New Technology HS) &
Sandy Ahuja (John F. Kennedy HS)

1. Financial Aid: First thing to look at while investing in your education is the price itself. College is a major decision, and it is important to consider its cost of it before committing. First, figure out roughly how much you and your family are willing and able to spend, as well as how much debt you are willing to take for each school you got into. Then, compare that amount to your financial aid awards. If your cost of attendance is significantly higher than your budget, maybe consider specific scholarships that the university may offer or simply move on to another option.

2. Resources + Academics: Determine which college best aligns with your interests and values. Do they offer internships related to your desired major? Are there any research opportunities? It is also helpful to know what kind of learner you are and the learning environments you may thrive in. Another factor to consider is the teacher-to-student ratio in an average class. If possible, try to connect with alumni who graduated with a similar degree that you are interested in and ask them questions about their experiences!

3. Picking the right school for you: To pick the right school can be challenging because you may already have your heart on a dream school you would like to attend but they don't offer you enough financial aid or decline you. It's hard to know which school you can picture yourself in and make sure you can actually see yourself there for the next 4 years. It's okay if you can't attend the school you dreamed of but you have other schools that want you to attend and you have to make sure they can offer you what you want as a student to get the help you need and become successful.



STATE SEAL OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Jacqueline Zhang (JFK HS)

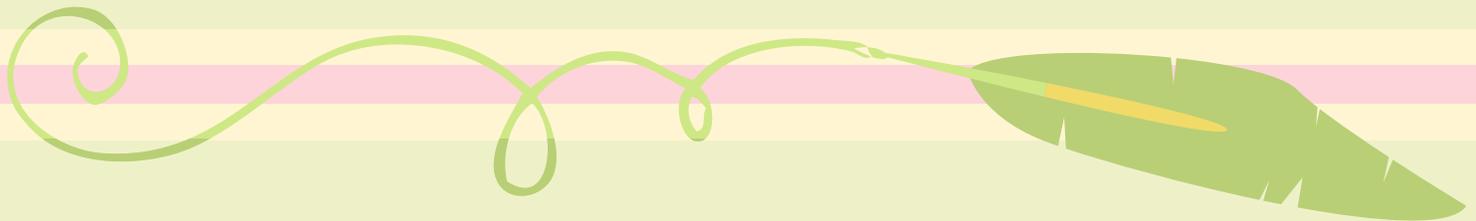
Due to the strike, the State Seal of Civic Engagement application deadline has been extended to May 2nd! 11th and 12th grade students who are not graduating this May will have until May 2nd to submit their SSCE Applications to their Site Coordinators. For seniors graduating in May AND who cannot complete the application by March 31st, please email your applications to or contact Dr. Hueling Lee at hueling_lee@mail.harvard.edu as soon as possible.

The SSCE is a great way to show colleges that you're involved in your community. If you have participated in any projects that demonstrate excellence in civics education through civic participation, I highly recommend you apply, especially if you are currently a Junior!

For more information on the application, visit our page at:
<https://www.scusd.edu/california-state-seal-civic-engagement>



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Have an idea you'd like to see mentioned? Want to write your own article?
We want to hear your voice in future volumes! Feel free to contact us at:

studentadvisorycouncil.scusd@gmail.com

