



The Summerbridge Spirit

December 2008: Words From The Director

Hello SB Families!

A few of you noticed that I was out of the office for a week a couple of weeks ago. I was very fortunate to attend this year's director's conference hosted by the Breakthrough Collaborative. Summerbridge San Francisco is a member of the Breakthrough Collaborative as one of 26 other affiliate programs. The Breakthrough Collaborative is a national non-profit that increases educational opportunity for high-potential, low-income middle school students and inspires outstanding college and high school students to pursue careers in education. I represented SBSF at the National Conference for all Summerbridge and Breakthrough programs. It was so empowering to be able to network with other directors. It was wonderful to discuss the many accomplishments that we've made together during the last year. It was energizing to be able to imagine the possible enhancements to the program that we too can do as a team of staff, parents/guardians and students.

We have been fortunate enough to learn from others, we also want to learn from all of you!

- What you would like to see in the school year program?
- The summer program?
- How can Summerbridge better serve you and your family?

I want to hear from you! So please email me at

deundra.hundon@sfuhs.org or call and speak with me directly.

In closing in a year that has brought us a new president with promises of change I would like to take just a moment to say thank you and best wishes to each of you. Each of you has supported me and the program in ways that you might not even fully be aware. Whether it was a smile, kind word, organizing or chairing a meeting or an event your acts of kindness did not go unnoticed.

Peace and Happy Holidays.

Deundra

Greetings From The Program Associate

Hello Summerbridge Families!

The holidays are coming and the semester is winding down. We've got just one more week, and then it is goodbye until January 12th. I cannot believe how quickly this semester has passed. In my world of Enrichment classes and the Tutoring Program, the semester went well. As you'll notice in another part of this newsletter, it was a crazy semester for the tutoring program. We had more students than ever. I was pleased by how well both our students and tutors adjusted to the growth in our program. Enrichment classes were a hit this semester. Megan, Leah, Jake, and Ibrahim taught some great classes. As students are getting picked up, I always make a point to ask how class went and general student responses have been very positive. We also had two new Teaching Assistants join the Enrichment classes this semester. I know that Lindsay and Maddie brought some fresh and friendly faces to the classroom.

In our last Summerbridge Family Association meeting, we talked a lot about how parents and guardians can be supportive of their student's academic performance. As the holiday break nears, it is a good idea to remember things you can do at home to further your student's education even when they are not in school. One suggestion was to apply math enrichment concepts to the everyday world. For example, have your student calculate allowances and budgets while you do your holiday shopping. You can also reinforce language arts enrichment by reading and writing holiday stories together. Whatever you do, be creative and have fun. We all know how busy are students are. This is their chance to take a break and relax for a few days. I know that is my plan.

Take care and have a happy holiday season.

Imani

Important High School Information

"I am so scared, What if my son doesn't get into high school?" SB Parent 2006

Trust me each of us if not currently but at some point probably had a very similar thought. But, the truth is all of our SB students are special and amazing and the real challenge is not getting into high school but trying to find the high school that is the right fit for him or her. I have had the pleasure of meeting with each of our 8th grade families during our high school counseling meetings and many of you are on the right track. But if you have **any questions** at all please call or email me immediately so that we can discuss or meet again.

I've mailed and gave an additional copy of the high school ranking sheet to each of your students. Please complete the ranking form and return it to me by **Friday, December 12, 2008**. **It's really important that our office gets this information on time. It's crucial this year more than any other year that we have enough time to write well written and timely letters of recommendation for our students.**

Also, as we discussed in our high school meeting it is important that your student applies to 1-2 tuition free high schools (Lowell doesn't count) this year. Again, it's just making sure that you've covered all options. Since the economy is not so strong this year private schools will be having to look even closer at financial aid awards.

Take care,

Deundra

Check Out Summerbridge Online

Have you seen our website lately? If you haven't, it's time to go check it out. Visit www.sfuhs.org/summerbridge.

Here's what you'll find:

- Our program calendar to check class and event dates
- Click Newsletters and read past Summerbridge Spirits
- Under High School Counseling there is an application timeline
- View our 2009 application in the Student Admissions section
- The Summerbridge history, program description, and goals
- Look at the slideshow and see if your student is there



The Summerbridge Tutoring Program

Wow, it has been a busy year for the Summerbridge Tutoring Program. We've had record numbers of Summerbridge students to work with our tutors this semester. We currently have 26 tutors and 31 students. Tutoring is available for any Summerbridge student who wants it, and is mandatory for any student receiving below a B- in a core class. As you know, our tutors are all University High School students. They've been through a tutoring training to prepare them to work with our students and, on top of that, most have also been through the Education Now course taught by the Director and Assistant Director of the Summerbridge program. The Education Now course takes a critical look at the education system in the US. From funding to teaching styles and teacher expectations, the class examines the role class and race play in our educational systems. The class looks at the history of education to gain a better understanding of the current state of education and uses California and San Francisco, in particular, as case studies into gain a better understanding of the many educational inequities students face. Our tutors are well prepared to be informed teachers and passionate educators.

Summerbridge 2008/2009 Calendar

Thursday, December 11th: Last Day of Enrichment Classes and Tutoring Program

Monday, January 12th: Enrichment Classes and Tutoring Program Begin

Wednesday, January 21st: SBFA Meeting

Wednesday, February 4th: Open House

Thursday, March 5th: New Student Applications Due

Thursday, April 30th: Last Day of Enrichment Classes and Tutoring Program

June 23rd-Aug 5th: Summer Program Dates

<http://www.stuhs.org>

We are on the Web!

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SUMMERBRIDGE SAN FRANCISCO
UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL



SB Students Hard At Work

Education is not preparation for life;
education is life itself. ~John Dewey

