

Designing Dads NEWSLETTER

October 2015

What is Designing Dads?

Highland Oaks is the only elementary school in the Arcadia Unified School District to have a TK – 5 choral music program that includes weekly instruction during the school day. This unique \$40,000 music program is fully funded by the generous Highland Oaks Families and organized by a group of moms and dads called “Designing Dads.”

This year, the Highland Oaks Designing Dads team has many new events that will help raise funds for our choral music program and other programs that benefit all Highland Oaks scholars. We will no longer be having one huge auction night in the Spring to raise funds. Instead, the new fundraising events will take place throughout the year, such as the Mixed Bag sale that’s currently going on, the spell-a-thon in December, a Sweetheart’s Dance (Father-Daughter) in February, and a Mother-Son event in April. All of these events require many passionate and dedicated parents, teachers, and community volunteers to help with the organization of these events. Anyone interested in assisting with Designing Dads functions is very much encouraged to let the DD Board know of your interest. We also value your suggestions regarding how we could improve our fundraising events. Currently, we are looking for volunteers to chair the events and volunteers to help with the spell-a-thon, Sweetheart’s dance, Mother-Son event or to serve on committees. Also, parent volunteers to help during music shows are always appreciated. If you are unable to dedicate time, but would like to donate money to the Designing Dads, your funds are greatly appreciated to keep the music program alive and vibrant for our Highland Oaks scholars.

We would also like to thank the many volunteers who have helped throughout the years with their time, energy, and dedication to be a part of the Designing Dads team. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy family life to find time to be part of our team. We look forward to seeing new faces to carry on this program for many more years.

DESIGNING DADS BOARD

PRESIDENT
Sherry Kefalas

VICE PRESIDENT
Kim Valentine

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Mark Valentine

DIRECTOR
Matt Taylor

DIRECTOR
Tina Cunningham

SECRETARY
(currently vacant)

Meet Our Music Teachers

Pictured from left to right:
Sherry Kefalas, Kellye Huff,
Stephen Pu, and Janice Clark

www.designingdads.com



Designing Dads

NEWSLETTER



Want to serve on the Designing Dads Board?

The Highland Oaks Designing Dads Board is currently accepting nominations for the positions of Director, Secretary and President of Highland Oaks Designing Dads, a non-profit organization. Nominations will be accepted by email (HODesigningdads@gmail.com) and submission of the Nominations Form which can be obtained in the school office or on our website. The Nomination Form will be available on October 21.

If you are interested in learning more about the duties of these positions, please inquire at HODesigningdads.com. Nominations will close on November 6th at 4pm. We hope you will consider serving the school in this way. We are excited to welcome new parents with new ideas.

How are Designing Dads funds given to the school?

Any and all funds donated to or raised by Highland Oaks Designing Dads are deposited to the FDIC Highland Oaks Designing Dads bank account. It is the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to deposit any monies to the credit of HODD. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the CFO to disburse funds at the direction of the Board of directors and to provide an accurate accounting of any and all assets, liabilities, equities, gains, losses, receipts and disbursements as requested by any director. Historically, HODD has disbursed monies to Arcadia Unified School District on an annual basis. This disbursement has been a gift to AUSD which has been used to fund the Highland Oaks chorale program teachers' compensation and other activities for the benefit of all students at Highland Oaks Elementary School.

Is Designing Dads part of PTSA?

Designing Dads is a separate non-profit organization and is not affiliated with PTSA; however, HOPTSA would like to do all it can to help promote active participation in Designing Dads among its members. Designing Dads provides such an incredibly worthwhile service to our school and community in funding the wonderful music program here at Highland Oaks and the more we can encourage parents to get involved the better. Thank you to all the parents who have donated so much of their time, money, and resources to Designing Dads over the years! It really is a very special and unique program and one that we should all be very proud of!

Designing Dads publishes informative articles about its activities periodically in HOPTSA's weekly Hawk Talk newsletter and also maintains their own website at www.designingdads.com/.

Please take the time to review these resources when you can as they are great ways to keep yourselves informed as to the latest news related to Designing Dads. Attending HOPTSA association meetings, Designing Dads meetings, and periodically-scheduled parent informational meetings are also great ways to stay abreast of the latest news and developments as well.

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Designing Dads Hosted Their First Parent Informational Meeting on October 13

On the evening of October 13, 2015 there were two meetings held by Highland Oaks Designing Dads. The first meeting was an Executive Board Meeting. The meeting following the Executive Board Meeting was an open meeting to all HO parents, teachers, staff and community. This open meeting was announced in the Hawk Talk and the Designing Dads Facebook page.

The Executive Board meeting discussed the following agenda items:

- The Secretary's concern of a possible conflict of interest having Sherry Kefalas (DD President) work as a music teacher
- Review of the DD By-laws
- Current financial status and goals for this year
- Suggestions for improved communication
- Upcoming changes to the Board of Directors including nominations for open positions
- Decision for Sherry to continue as President until a replacement is voted in

The Open Public Meeting discussed the following agenda items:

- The financial goals for the school year and overview of new fundraising opportunities
- The Secretary's concern of the possible conflict of interest related to Sherry Kefalas serving as President and working as a music teacher
- The hiring process of music teachers
- Review of the By-laws which explained that no conflict of interest exists (excerpt of bylaws in right column)
- -Ms C and Mrs. Huff, HO music teachers, explained their involvement and support of the decision to hire Sherry Kefalas as a music teacher
- Announcement of open nominations for new board members

The DD Board would like to apologize for the late notification of these important updates. These discussion topics were intended to be announced at the DD meeting originally scheduled for September 8th, but due to an unforeseen circumstance, the meeting had to be rescheduled to October 13th.

How do music teachers get paid?

The Highland Oaks music teachers are employees of the Arcadia Unified School District. The compensation paid to the teachers is made via AUSD payroll checks. Designing Dads makes an annual donation to the Arcadia Unified School District. This donation has been mainly used for funding the salaries of the music teachers. Music teachers are NOT directly paid compensation for teaching services from Designing Dads.

By-laws of Highland Oaks Designing Dads

Article 3, Section 14 *"Fees and Compensation of Directors"*

Directors and members of committees may receive such compensation, if any, for their services, and such reimbursement of expenses, as may be fixed or determined by resolution of the board of directors. This section 14 shall not be construed to preclude any director from serving the corporation in any other capacity as an officer, agent, employee, or otherwise, and receiving compensation for those services."



NEWSLETTER

Why do we have four music teachers this year instead of just three?

This year Dr. Stephen Pu, one of our talented music teachers, works part-time for Arcadia High School's music department. His schedule at the high school prevents him from teaching a portion of the last two classes at Highland Oaks. Therefore, to maintain the student to adult ratio within our Highland Oaks classes, a fourth teacher needed to be hired. This fourth teacher only teaches during the 1.5 - 2 hours that Dr. Pu needs to be at the high school on Thursdays and Fridays. Currently our music budget could not accommodate four teachers to teach from 7 am - noon. In short, Mrs. Huff and Ms. Clark will be teaching their regular shift in full. Dr. Pu and Mrs. Kefalas will be splitting the shift so that the entire teaching period is covered. Dr. Pu will teach from approximately 7 am – 10:30 am. Mrs. Kefalas will teach from approximately 10:30 am – 12 noon.

Questions?

Please visit

www.designingdads.com

Facebook

[Highland Oaks Designing Dads](#)

or email

HODesigningdads@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

Choral Performances

We realize parents appreciate advanced notice of Choral Music Performances. Listed below are performance dates. As the dates get closer, we will advertise more details about each specific performance.

Holiday Shows

Date: December 17 & 18

Location: Highland Oaks Multipurpose Room.

Time: There will be two morning shows for parents on 12/17 and two morning shows for parents on 12/18.

Details: All four shows will be identical shows which will include all TK - 5 students. Tickets are free.

Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grade 1 Spring Show

Date: TBD - We will announce the date very soon.

Location: Highland Oaks Multipurpose Room.

Time: Morning Show

Details: Unlimited tickets will be available. Tickets are free. Only TK, K, and Grade 1 students will perform at this show.

Grade 2 & Grade 3 Spring Show

Date: May 4

Location: Arcadia Performing Arts Center (PAC)

Time: 6:30 - 7:45 PM

Details: Unlimited tickets will be available. Tickets will be sold. Only second and third grade students will perform at this show. (Show choir students will also perform at this show).

Grade 4 & Grade 5 Spring Show

Date: May 12

Location: Arcadia Performing Arts Center (PAC)

Time: 6:30 - 7:45 PM

Details: Unlimited tickets will be available. Tickets will be sold. Only fourth and fifth grade students will perform at this show.