



## PALO ALTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Kimberly Diorio  
*Principal*

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Dear Paly Students and Parents/Guardians:

Congratulations on successfully completing the first quarter of the 2013-2014 school year! I would like to thank everyone who has made this a fantastic start to the school year. As your new principal, I'd also like to acknowledge those who have welcomed me in this new position. Your passion, talents, energy and kindness continually impress me. Thank you for your support.

We have numerous reasons to celebrate at Paly. Since August, the teachers at Palo Alto High School have begun transformative work; we successfully kicked-off a new school year, developed new relationships and engaging lessons with our beloved students, collaborated with our coworkers on school improvement and curricular alignment, launched our WASC process, adopted a new attendance procedure, familiarized ourselves with the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Smarter Balance Assessments, began the process of going completely electronic with the college application process, learned new ways teachers are incorporating technology in their classrooms, and had some good fun in the mix. I'm extremely proud of the hard work already accomplished by our teaching staff and their dedicated focus on student learning.

Looking ahead to the new quarter, I'm filled with excitement. Next week is undeniably the best week of the year – Spirit Week! A shout-out to our student leadership class, ASB, for their efforts and determination in organizing another infamous Spirit Week. Next week's festivities will unite our entire student body as we celebrate our Paly pride. Details can be found on the ASB website at <https://sites.google.com/site/pahsasb/sw2013>. For those new to Paly, the following article from the *Paly Voice* regarding Spirit Week offers good advice regarding how to best prepare <http://palyvoice.com/2013/10/17/a-freshmans-guide-to-spirit-week/>

Finally, my hope is that our students will take some time over this long weekend to catch up on schoolwork, get some rest, have a good time with friends and family, take care of themselves and plan for the celebration that lies ahead. I know Paly students have worked hard, and they deserve this chance to show their school spirit, enjoy high school and have some fun. Here's to a great second quarter!

With Viking Pride,

*Kim*

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