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# HOLDEN HIGH NEWSLETTER - Spring 2014



## Important Upcoming Events

Seven amazing students are graduating from Holden this June and you are cordially invited to attend the ceremony and celebration. **Please join us on Saturday, June 7, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall at Orinda Community Church for a moving and joyful recognition of what these young people have accomplished.

Co-Director **Renee Beck** has also chosen to “graduate” at the end of this year after 34 years of teaching, mentoring, and guiding Holden students, counseling interns, parents, and staff. We will celebrate Renee’s remarkable work and all she has meant to so many of us at a **BBQ on June 14 at Lake Temescal in Oakland from 1-4 p.m. at the Streamside Picnic Area.** Please join us!

**Daniel Dickinson** will also be

## Our Students Do Awesome Things!

In March, the Orinda Community Church hosted **Winter Nights**, a county program to house homeless families during the winter months which rotates among area churches for two-week periods. Six Holden students and three staff volunteered to serve meals, play with the children and help the families feel at home. In addition, one Holden class helped with food preparation.

**Holden students also have been working in the community as volunteers at :**

*Animal Rescue Foundation*

*Sunrise Senior Living*

*The Mosaic Project*

*American Cancer Society Thrift Store*

**....and learning about the working world as employees in a variety of settings including:**

*Commercial real estate*

*Childcare*

*A rock climbing gym*

*Dog training*

Sophomore “Passion projects” this semester included learning to cook, getting a driver’s license and constructing a guitar.

## Alumni Reunion February 2014

***"Holden taught me to love***

## Holden Chosen for Grant Funding by Orinda Woman’s Club

Holden High School was honored this spring to be chosen as a Beneficiary Organization by the Orinda Woman’s Club for its Festival of Trees event.

Each year, the Orinda Woman’s Club chooses two nonprofits to share the proceeds from their major annual luncheon and fashion show held in November and Holden is extremely grateful for their support! **We’ll be sending out more information about tickets for the Festival of Trees this summer.**

## Fresh paint, new floors....?

Thanks to a very generous donation from an alumni parent, we have **the seed money for some upgrades to our building.**

We’re hoping this seed money will grow through additional contributions to allow us to paint, put in new flooring and possibly re-furnish the art room.

Keep an eye out for more information on Facebook

leaving Holden at the end of this academic year, with his last day on June 9. Per his request, there will not be a special recognition of his departure. Daniel's creativity, humor, and generosity will be greatly missed.

### 3 Easy Ways to Support Holden

1. **Sign up for a monthly donation** using your credit card or PayPal. We hope you will consider supporting Holden's unique educational environment by donating at: <http://www.holdenhigh.org>.
2. **Please talk to friends, co-workers and relatives** about the benefits of Holden's small, supportive educational environment.
3. **Forward this newsletter** to anyone who might be interested.

***Thank you for helping to keep Holden strong and thriving!***

***education and to be accountable for myself."***

***"At Holden, I was able to love people again and let down my walls. Plus I got in touch with my artistic side again!"***

*Two alumni reflecting on their time at Holden/CCAS at the 2014 Alumni Reunion*

**Joel Weber, Abby Tuttle, Jeanie Dooha, Erin Patch and Robert Konkle**, aka the Alumni Community Reunion Committee, organized and hosted **the largest Holden alumni gathering that has ever taken place** in February at the school. Alumni from every decade of Holden's history, from the early '70's to 2013, attended along with an impressive number of alumni parents and former staff. The pleasure of reconnecting and catching up with old friends and teachers made the evening truly memorable.

We hope to make this a regular event!



### Website Gets New Look

Holden's website was redesigned this year to give it a fresher look and to increase its "searchability" so more people can find us when they're looking for an alternative high school. Take a look and let us know what you think: <http://www.holdenhigh.org>



and email in the coming weeks!

### Wish List

Here are some items we could really use:

**Art supplies of all kinds, especially paintbrushes & blank canvases**

**Exercise equipment:**  
Dumbbells/hand weights, 8 lbs or heavier

Jump ropes

Yoga mats

**Music room needs:**  
PA system for mic

Guitar s strings (10 sets), 10 or 12 gauge

Working musical instruments (no pianos)

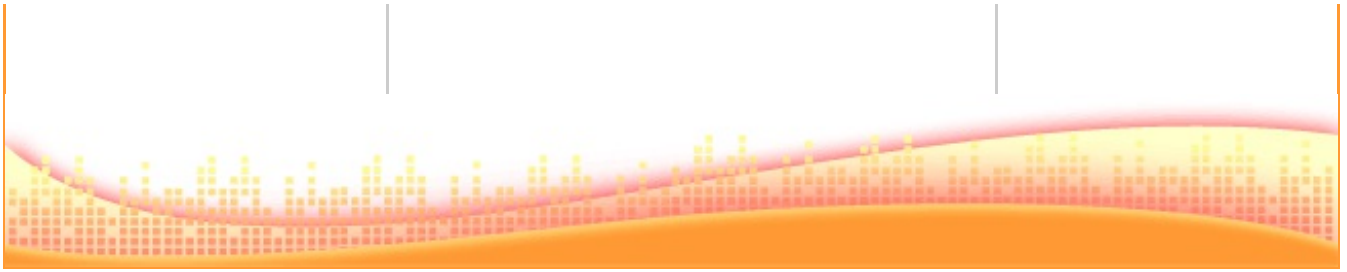
**Other items:**  
Gardening supplies

Couches (no sleeper sofas)

Sturdy outdoor furniture

Power tools

Gardening supplies



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Holden High School  
10 Irwin Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
USA



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