



Fun in the Wilderness

Peter Hines is an English & World History Teacher at Archbishop Hanna High School. Peter has been an avid nature lover and hiker since his teen years. He often remembers his hike from Yosemite to Lake Tahoe on the Pacific Crest Trail with his brother, Jack Hines (Hanna’s music teacher). Peter received his wilderness training from the National Outdoor Leadership School. We recently spoke to him about one of Hanna’s most popular summer programs – Wilderness Education.

Why is the Wilderness Education Program so important to our boys?

It opens up their world. They get an understanding that there is something larger than themselves. It offers a fresh perspective on things for our boys. Many boys have written in their journals that these backpacking trips are a “once in a lifetime opportunity.”

What do the boys gain from the Wilderness Education Program?

Mainly, they gain self-esteem. This program introduces them to a new world. They learn the value of good judgment. Each decision has an outcome. If they walk through a stream with their shoes on they are going to have a long afternoon of hiking in wet shoes. If they eat food in their tent they may have a visit from a hungry bear later that

night! “Teaching kids in the wild creates natural consequences,” Peter says with a smile.

What kind of leadership emerges in this program?

The boys are put into groups of three, and each group has a staff member overseeing it. In each group, there is a designated leader. “We are able to see these boys

has been going for three years, there is a waiting list. Boys register for Environmental Science at Hanna, and then they are selected to participate.

What are some highlights of past trips?

“I have seen amazing things happen. A boy named Marlin caught his first fish on a trip. He



demonstrate their own leadership style. It is really exciting when a group gels and teamwork is demonstrated even when it comes to camp chores.”

Do boys want to participate?

Yes! At first there wasn’t much interest, but now that the program

was the only one to catch one that day too!” Over the years we have focused on survival, science and environment. Recently, we have added rock climbing to our trip, and that is very popular with the boys.

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Meet the Hanna All-Stars

Excerpted from a special article in *The Sonoma Index-Tribune*, on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, written by **Carole Kelleher**.

Three of the All-Stars, **Tony**, **Max** and **Henry**, recently (spoke to us about) their life at Hanna and provided some insights into what it's like to be there.

All-Star Tony moved to Hanna six months ago because he was doing poorly in school. The back of his All-Star card proclaims that what he is now most proud of is that he is getting straight As. "The best thing about Hanna is they



teach you at your own pace. They help you and there are less kids in the classroom," Tony said. He likes knowing

that the other students are always willing to help him out.

Tony is also enjoying the sports at Hanna, especially basketball. And Hanna is giving him an opportunity to pursue music. "I have a natural ability with the piano," he said.

"It's better for kids like me to be here at Hanna rather than other places," he said. "Hanna is a good place."

All-Star Max has been at Hanna seven months and is very proud that he is going to be playing the violin at "Evening with the All-Stars." He is a freshman and his passion is music. He hopes to go to Juilliard and study music and after that get a filmmaking degree at USC so he can accomplish his

ultimate goal of writing music for the movies. "I love to compose music," he said.

Max was born in Romania and was adopted by an American family when he was 10. One of his musical compositions is named "Romanian Countryside."

"I like the school staff and the administration here," Max said. "They are willing to sit down with you and talk about your problems. You get a lot of help if you need it."

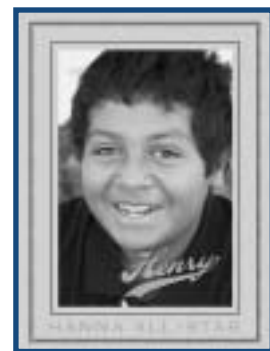
Max hopes to "stick with Hanna for the rest of high school." All of the boys at Hanna are there because they want to be. They agree to stay for a minimum of one year of full-time residency. Many stay longer.

Henry is an 8th-grader. His favorite way to have fun at Hanna



is table tennis. He adds "Hanna is a good place to be when you are having troubles because they help you out." Henry's favorite subject is science, and he is raising a calf at the 4-H center on campus. "I'm getting better grades and I'm interacting with the teachers," he said.

"The boys here are the most courageous, bravest boys I ever met," said Rev. John Crews, the Center's Executive Director.



"They are willing to take a chance to do their level best in a challenging environment to make a better life for themselves.

"The way this place works is we are an extended family," Crews said. "This is the village that will keep boys on track." ❖

Hanna Boys Center First Annual "Evening with the All-Stars"

The boys at Hanna Boys Center were the All-Stars on April 21st, as a sellout crowd of 360 guests arrived at the Hanna campus in Sonoma to celebrate during our First Annual "Evening with the All-Stars." Over \$250,000 was raised, thanks to all of our wonderful friends who supported this event!

The Hanna boys greeted guests with umbrellas as they arrived, braving a springtime rain storm. Everybody enjoyed the amazing food prepared by caterer Melissa Teaff, dancing to Richard Olsen's big band orchestra, and sipping wines from Don Sebastiani & Sons and Robert Hunter Winery.

The goal of this first year event was to provide an opportunity for old and new friends of Hanna to come together in Sonoma and meet the All-Star boys and hear their stories and to share in a small piece of their lives at Hanna. Plans are already underway for the 2nd annual event in April of 2008. *See you next year!* ❖



Fun in the Wilderness

(From page 1)

Where are you headed this year?

Our trip is in Yosemite this year. The boys are really excited. We will be hiking in the Yosemite wilderness for five days and four nights. I am sure we will have a lot to tell when we return!

What did the boys have to say?

"I was on a mission to get to

Destination Wilderness. The first night was awesome. We made a fire and learned how to cook with a portable stove. On September 30th, we hiked for about 4-1/2 hours. When we got to our destination, we were tired. A

few of us went to the lake to get some water. We had to purify it. I learned how to do that also. That night I had to hang the food so that bears would not get it. I learned to do that. I learned some ways to do knots in ropes. I learned what to do if a bear comes. I learned how to properly use the restroom in the wilderness. Our three goals were: safety, have fun, work together."

Up steep lion ridge.

*Young legs groaning in despair.
Ridgetop miracle.*

The trail is gruesome.

*Walking up high hills is hard,
but we conquered it.*

"This was so fun. Seeing another side of the world – the mountains, the fresh air, the sounds, the views. This has to be shown to the world."



"This place is like heaven. There is no way you can describe this place. It's so beautiful. It's a once in a lifetime thing that some people go through. Thanks for making me one of them." ❖



15th Annual Golf & Tennis Classic

*A benefit to provide hope
for the boys of Hanna*



*"Fore"
the
"Love"
of
Hanna Boys Center*

Friday, September 21, 2007

SILVERADO
COUNTRY CLUB & RESORT
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*Support the life-changing program
that has been providing Faith, Education,
and Care to at-risk boys since 1949.*

GOLF
AM or PM Flights

TENNIS
Doubles Division A or B

WATCH FOR YOUR
INVITATION IN THE MAIL!

*For questions, please call
Tamara Dunn at
(707) 933-2504*

**Hanna Boys
Center**

SAVE THE DATE!

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Infineon Raceway Dinner to Benefit Hanna

World renowned Infineon Raceway, located in Sonoma, has selected Hanna Boys Center as their new charity partner for the *Annual IndyCar Series Grand Marshall's Dinner*. The event will take place on Saturday evening, August 25th at 6:30 pm in the Jacuzzi Family Winery in Sonoma. You are invited to an elegant evening of food and wine, meeting and hearing remarks from Hanna Boys and the Grand Marshall of the IndyCar race, including IndyCar driving legends, **Al Unser Sr.** and **Johnny Rutherford**.

Tickets to the dinner are \$200 per person or \$2,000 for a Sponsor Table of 10 guests. All proceeds from the dinner will be split evenly with Hanna Boys Center and Valley of the Moon Teen Center, the other charity partner for this event. For more information, please contact Tamara Dunn at 707-933-2504 or tdunn@hannacenter.org.

Notes from Father Crews ...



It is always a treat to hand out the report cards to each student every quarter. One new boy jumped up when he saw his grades and shook my hand enthusiastically. "This is the first report card EVER that I haven't gotten all F's. This is the first B grade in my life. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

Our wrestling team finished its season. There were 22 boys and they gave their all. It was so impressive to see boys, who had never wrestled before, work so hard and do so well. It was something to watch the sportsmanship of our

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Hanna Boys Center

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boys and to hear from other parents from other teams speak so highly of our program.

We had our Sixth Annual Boys Formal Dinner. The boys dress in their best chapel clothes and are served by our staff who acted as waiters. This dinner also serves as a teaching moment. The boys are instructed in what to do when entering a fine restaurant, how to order a meal, how to properly eat a meal, including the proper use of silverware, ordering dessert, and what to "tip."

We recently experienced Prom season. I have always helped boys to rent a tux and arrange for transportation for this event. One note I received, "In case you don't know what is in fashion these days, I was wondering if you could give me some money so that I can take either Amber or Tiffany to the prom.

I can't decide which one." It is obvious that this young man has more concerns than getting money for a tux.

Shane, who graduated in 2005, called to tell me he was shipping out for Army boot camp. He may be at Fort Jackson, right near my folks' town. In which case, I would be able to watch his graduation. Shane's favorite lines were: "You can't tell me what to do. You can't order me around. I think I'll join the Army."

Life is full at Hanna. We can't do this work without your support. You are integral part of what happens every day at Hanna Boys Center. God bless you.


Rev. John S. Crews, Ed.D.
Executive Director