



# Seegerstrom High School

**"A Fundamental School"**

SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Amy Avina, Principal

June 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians of Incoming Tenth-Grade Seegerstrom Students:

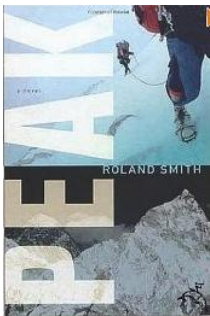
At Seegerstrom, our Instructional Focus is "Read! Write! Learn! Seegerstrom has always assigned summer reading to its students as preparation for their work in the fall. Literacy is emphasized throughout the curriculum. This year, we are assigning the same novel to each and every student in grades 9-12: Roland Smith's *Peak*. By ascribing to the "One Book, One Community" theory of reading, we hope to build a community over the summer in which students and staff alike experience the joy of reading a common title and are thus able to discuss the novel across the campus.

In an effort to keep your minds sharp and prepare your critical thinking and reading skills for English 10, we ask that students complete the following assignments.

**All incoming tenth-grade students are expected read our schoolwide novel, *Peak* by Roland Smith.** Students will complete an examination on this novel by **the fifth week of the first six-week grading period** in September.

**In addition, all incoming honors tenth-grade students are expected to also read George Orwell's *1984*.** Students will write a mandatory Expository essay and complete an examination to assess their understanding of the novel during the **third week of the school year**.

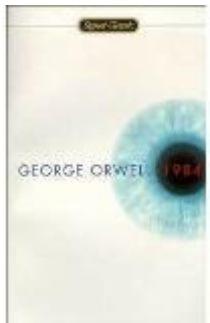
We are providing your student with a free copy of *Peak* right now. Please take care of this book. If your student loses or damages this copy, a replacement fee will be incurred. Copies of *1984* will be provided in August during program verification. Students who want to get a head start on this reading can find the book at local bookstores and/or libraries.



*The only thing you'll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things that really matter lie far below. – Peak Marcello*

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with a choice: wither away in juvenile detention or fly to Kathmandu with his long-lost father. Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit. The story of Peak's dangerous ascent—told in his own words—is suspenseful, immediate, and impossible to put down.

Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults, ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, Booklist Editors' Choice, National Book Award Winner, Junior Library Guild Selection



"Thought Police." "Big Brother." "Orwellian." These words have entered our vocabulary because of George Orwell's classic dystopian novel, *1984*. The story of one man's nightmare odyssey as he pursues a forbidden love affair through a world ruled by warring states and a power structure that controls not only information but also individual thought and memory, *1984* is a prophetic, haunting tale.

More relevant than ever before, *1984* exposes the worst crimes imaginable—the destruction of truth, freedom, and individuality.

Sincerely,

The Seegerstrom English Department