

## **PALO VERDE HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL**

Activities Office  
*Bart Peterson, MSS, ATC*  
*Athletic Director*  
1302 S. Avenida Vega Tucson, AZ 85710  
Phone 520-584-7411 Fax 520-584-7401



January 31, 2014  
Ellen Satlof  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
2952 Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Ms. Satlof:

Palo Verde High Magnet School is proud to promote and to join the Youth Sports Safety Alliance in their effort to address safety in youth sports.

Palo Verde employs a full-time athletic trainer who is available to our 900 students, grades 9-12. In 2013 Palo Verde High Magnet School qualified for and received the NATA Safe Sport School Award.

Palo Verde has an established Athletic Health Care Team (AHCT) with the expressed purpose to improve communication between school medical personnel, school administrators, emergency responders, and physicians.

Palo Verde is committed to athlete safety and works to ensure our students remain safe while participating in sports. Palo Verde commits to the call to action by the Youth Sports Safety Alliance by:

- Ensure that youth athletes have access to health care professionals who are qualified to make assessments and decisions.
- Educate parents, athletes, coaches, teachers and others about the signs and symptoms of sports injuries and conditions (e.g., brain injury, heat illness and exertional sickling).
- Assure pre-participation exams before play begins and, where appropriate, conduct baseline testing.
- Ensure that sports equipment, uniforms, playing surfaces and environmental conditions are checked for safety and best conditions. Write to state legislators and members of Congress, expressing concerns.
- Insist that research into youth sports injuries and their effects be undertaken immediately and be supported by tax dollars.
- Support a national registry of sport-related catastrophic injuries and fatalities to improve safety and participation.
- Demand that appropriate emergency action plans and safety and medical protocols and procedures are in place at every sporting event and facility.
- Educate players and others that there is a difference between pain and injury; and work to eliminate the culture of "playing through pain" without assessment.
- Ensure that both general and sport-specific safety education be a priority for every administrator, coach, parent and player.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janna Acevedo  
Principal  
Palo Verde High Magnet School

Bart Peterson, MSS, AT/L  
Athletic Director/Athletic Trainer  
Palo Verde High Magnet School