

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL BEARNOTES

PUBLISHED BY M-A PTA

AUGUST 18, 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar

M-A Administration

PTA

Athletics

BearNotes Submissions

QUICK WEB LINKS

M-A PTA

M-A High School

SUHSD (District)

M-A Athletic Boosters

M-A Drama Boosters

M-A Band Boosters

M-A College & Career
Center

Foundation for the
Future

Not Getting BearNotes?

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesday, August 19** - Freshman Student Orientation, Ayers Gym, 8 a.m. - Noon
- **Tuesday, August 19** - Freshman Parent Coffee, M-A Staff Lounge, behind the Resource Center (see [Campus Map](#)), 8 a.m.
- **Thursday, August 21** - First Day of School, students should arrive at the New Gym at 7 a.m. for class schedules. Today is a regular, not block, schedule.
- **Tuesday, September 2** - First PTA Meeting, in room F15, 8:30 a.m.

BEARNOTES, PART 3

Thanks to the many of you who signed up during Arena Registration. We appreciate your patience as we handle any incorrect e-mail addresses. As an enhancement, we have been able to institute "Return to Top" links.

To HTML or not? The sign-up sheet (and on-line sign-ups) allow BearNotes recipients to choose to receive the newsletter in HTML format or in text format. HTML merely means that the newsletter is formatted and contains color, links and different fonts. Choosing text does not mean that you will receive a text message on your phone, but rather that the e-mail will be stripped of formatting. Unless overridden by you, our service will automatically send HTML or text, whichever your e-mail system can accept. If you wish to change your selection, please go to the [bottom](#) of the page, and click on the Update Profile/Email Address link and change your preference on-line.

Timely submissions. A last reminder, that in order to have your submission printed timely it is essential to do two things: submit it to the right place ([your BearNotes Team](#)), and on time (by noon of the Thursday prior to the week to be published). You can submit articles early. Please clearly indicate the week you wish the article to be published.

Feedback. As with anything new, learning opportunities will present themselves. If you'd like to provide feedback, please feel free to send to your [BearNotes Team](#). It will help us if you include Feedback in the subject line.

School Drop-off and Pick-up. As school begins, please plan on arriving early as the student pick-up and drop-off zones will be congested. The only area designated for student drop-off and pick-up is located along the front of the school. (See [Campus Map](#)).

Access this area by entering off of Ringwood Ave (located to the **left** of the construction entrance) and exiting on to Oak Grove Ave. This is a one-way lane and may not be entered via Oak Grove. Parking lots around campus are for permit parking only and not drop-off and pick-up. Please call me with any questions or comments. Thanks!
Fred Kessler
fkessler@seq.org
Dean of Students
322-5311 XT 5104

Mass Transit Options. Information on bus routes and schedules can be checked [here](#). This link shows which bus routes serve the local high schools and on that web page is a link to the schedules. The Campus Map will shortly be updated to reflect the appropriate bus stop locations.

A Letter from Mr. Matthew Zito

(reprinted in part, with permission, from Trivocis June 2008)

Dear Menlo-Atherton Community:

...It is already time for me to welcome our new ninth grade families and transfer students to Menlo-Atherton High School. You have made an excellent decision to send your child to M-A; they will experience a rich educational environment that is unrivaled by any peninsula school. Our academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs are truly first-rate.

Our students leave M-A with a competitive advantage, one they will need as they enter the complex world of 21st century California. Philosopher John Dewey summed up the M-A experience well when he stated, "Education is not a preparation for life, but is life itself."

While the transition to high school is a major one, there are many built-in supports that will aid your child's journey at M-A. After a few short weeks, students become familiar with their new routines and are better acquainted with the campus than many of their teachers. There is always a great rush of excitement as everyone arrives on the first morning as we quickly distribute schedules, the first bell rings, and everyone hurries off to class. It can seem noisy and there are always a few small glitches, but in short order everything operates smoothly. New families need not feel apprehensive - your children are the top priority and will be well cared for. In four short years, they will be matriculating into top tier colleges, universities, and post-secondary options.

M-A remains the proverbial "king of the sky" in terms of the rich opportunities, services, and experiences that we offer. No private or charter schools provide what we do. And we do it with humor and humility on thirty beautiful acres in Atherton. When the new M-A performing arts center opens in late 2009, our students will have a fantastic new space for performing arts, a small gem of a cafeteria, a world-class band room and a renovated frontage along Middlefield Road.

...I eagerly anticipate the start of this school year - it is an exciting time to be at Menlo-Atherton.

Warmly,
Matthew Zito, Principal

([Return to Top](#))

PTA



First PTA Meeting for the 2008/2009 school year. The first general PTA meeting will be Tuesday, September 2 at 8:30 a.m. in room F15 (See the [Campus Map](#)). Come for coffee and a chat with Mr. Zito. Parents new to the M-A community are particularly welcomed.

M-A PTA Fashion Show 2008. Saturday, October 25 will be the M-A PTA Fashion Show 2008, "Rock ON!". We are welcoming all M-A parents to come join in the fun and help out with the show! There are many short term volunteer jobs available. We would love your help in the following ways:

- Store moms
- Model coordinators
- Bake sale
- DVD sales and distribution

Please consider helping and you'll get to know M-A and the wonderful senior class! Please contact Cindy Newton at Newton_c@sbcglobal.net. Thank you in advance!!

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED. Any great school functions well because of terrific volunteers. We urge you to consider the gift of time and talent. Want to see what jobs are available? Check out the [PTA Volunteer Web Site](#).

([Return to Top](#))

ATHLETICS



M-A Athletic Boosters needs a volunteer. Interested in maintaining our Boosters website (see www.m-aboosters.org)? If you are technically able and interested in contributing your time and talent, please contact Suzanne Amato at amato_family@msn.com as soon as possible.

GIRLS WATER POLO. The first practice of the 2008 season will be Monday, August 18th, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., followed by a parent meeting at 6:30 p.m. Do not be late! Contact Coach Rubin csrubin280@hotmail.com for more details. GO BEARS!

([Return to Top](#))

BEARNOTES SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- Email submissions to [your BearNotes Team](#) by Thursday noon, spellcheck/proofread them first, and format them in Arial 10 pt.
- Please keep submissions **concise**, and include the organization name, event, date, time, location, and contact info, including web site URL.
- All submissions are subject to editing by the PTA.
- For the PTA policy on BearNotes publication, please go to the [M-A PTA web site](#).

Go Bears. Grrrr!