


**BearNotes 8/25/08**

Sunday, August 24, 2008 9:30 PM

**From:** "M-A PTA BearNotes Team" <bearnotes@mabearspta.org>  
**To:** debv1@yahoo.com

## MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL BEARNOTES

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 AUGUST 25, 2008



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Foundation for the Future

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### CALENDAR

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday, August 28** - Deadline to submit **Athletic Packets** ([See article](#))
- **Friday, August 29** - **Technology Exam** sign up deadline ([See article](#))
- **Monday, September 1** - Labor Day Holiday
- **Tuesday, September 2**
  - First **PTA Meeting**, location TBA, 8:30 a.m. ([See article](#))
  - **Fall Student Athlete/Parent Sports Information Night**, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Library
- **Thursday, September 4** - **Back to School Night**, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- **Friday, September 5**
  - **Minimum Day**
  - **Freshman Family Welcome**, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Girls Soccer Field
  - **Welcome Back Dance**, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. on the Gym Patio

### BEARNOTES, PSSST, PASS IT ON

**Sign-Ups.** Thanks to fantastic participation during Arena, we have expanded our BearNotes e-mail distribution list to about 1,500 participants including students, parents, staff and the community. **We want more...** BearNotes allows people quick access to the week's happenings, and the ability to locate information and websites rapidly. So, if you know of friends, family or anyone in the community that you feel would benefit from BearNotes, please forward this message to them. Interested parties can sign up using the link just to the left of this article.

**Welcome to M-A Staff.** We are excited to bring BearNotes to all M-A staff members. The district e-mail server automatically defaults to text format. If you'd like to see BearNotes in all of

its glory, when in GroupWise, go to the View Menu and select HTML.

**Submissions.** A quick recap: BearNotes will be published once a week, no later than 6 a.m. Monday morning. While we will work to reduce duplicate postings, some items will be repeated to ensure everyone has a chance to see them as we work to complete our e-mail distribution lists.

**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.

### M-A ADMINISTRATION

**ESL Tutor Program.** Volunteer to help M-A's English Learners once a week for an hour and make a real difference! E-mail either Linda Fornaciari ([laderalinda@mac.com](mailto:laderalinda@mac.com)) or Marla Stark ([marlastark@mac.com](mailto:marlastark@mac.com)) if you would like to join our team of volunteer tutors.

We work once a week with students in ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, who have arrived recently and need help to learn English. You will help with practice in English conversation as well as individual support for their class work under the direction of an ESL teacher. Last year, over 40 fun and dedicated M-A parents and local community members tutored in ESL classes and at the afterschool homework program. For freshman parents, it's a unique way to get to know M-A. No need for tutoring experience or familiarity with a second language. Tutoring will start in September after an introductory meeting. Come be part of this important and satisfying experience!

**Technology Challenge Exam.** Sign up by Friday, August 29, 2008. M-A students have three options for completing the technology requirement for graduation: 1) Pass an approved technology class; 2) Submit a Technology Portfolio; or 3) Pass the Technology Challenge Exam. The Technology Challenge Exam is offered at M-A twice a year, once each semester. The fall exam will be held on Wednesday, September 3, and the deadline to sign up is Friday, August 29. Sign up in the Guidance Office. For further information on the Technology Graduation requirement, see <http://www.seq.org/content/view/25/37/>. For questions contact Guidance Advisor Karina Escobar-Weaver at [keweaver@seq.org](mailto:keweaver@seq.org).

**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](mailto:fkessler@seq.org)  
Dean of Students  
322-5311 XT 5104

**School Transportation.** The PTA website has updated the [Transportation](#) web page. This page includes information on mass transit options, parking, bicycles and school drop-off and pick-up. The Campus Map will shortly be updated to reflect the appropriate bus stop locations.

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## 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 a location to be announced (NOT F15, as previously published). Come for coffee and a chat with Mr. Zito. Parents new to the M-A community are particularly welcomed.

**Challenge Day 2008 - BE THE CHANGE!** Join us Monday, Tuesday and/or Friday, November 3rd, 4th or 7th for the memorable one-day workshop that promotes compassion, communication and community building among the M-A freshman class. Adult volunteers are critical to the program's success. Parents from all grades are welcome, no experience needed. Come participate in one of the most meaningful volunteer opportunities of the year.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Small Group Leader: 7:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Registration: 6:50 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
- Lunch: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Volunteer for any of the three roles and pick the date(s) you prefer, then e-mail your preference to Barb Windham or Peggy Propp at [challengeday@mabearspta.org](mailto:challengeday@mabearspta.org). Please put "Challenge Day Volunteer" in the subject line and note how many days you would like to volunteer. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our students!

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## M-A COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER

The Senior Parent College Information Night initially scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 7. The event (for **senior parents only**, not students) will take place in the M-A Library at 7:30 p.m.

Sophomore and junior parent information nights will be held during the winter. Sorry about the change. RSVP to [AAKleeman@aol.com](mailto:AAKleeman@aol.com).

Alice Kleeman

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## ATHLETICS



**A Big Thank You.** Thank you to all the friends of Athletic Boosters who visited our table during Arena Check-In to say hello, buy Bear Wear, and make a donation. We appreciate your generosity and are preparing for our first granting session of the year. Coaches will be submitting requests to Boosters for new uniforms and equipment and put your donations to excellent use.

**Bear Wear.** If you missed out on the Bear Wear we were selling at Arena, you can always purchase M-A clothing online. Go to the M-A website ([www.mabears.org](http://www.mabears.org)) and look for the link to Bear Wear.

**Athletic Packet Deadline.** The last day to turn in an athletic packet is Thursday, August 28th. Athletic packets must be signed off by all offices listed and returned to Ms. Aubrey Orcutt in the

AVP office. Students interested in Winter and Spring sports can pick up a packet now in the AVP office and get a head start on the athletic clearance process.

Aubrey Orcutt  
Menlo-Atherton High School  
Vice Principal's Secretary  
650-322-5311 x 5133  
[aorcutt@seq.org](mailto:aorcutt@seq.org)  
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#### 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!

Your BearNotes Team  
M-A High School PTA BearNotes

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