

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL BEARNOTES

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**Not Getting
BearNotes?**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday, January 19 - Martin Luther King Holiday - No school**
- **Wednesday, January 21** - Mini-Grant Applications due to PTA
- **Wednesday, January 21** - Technology Exam 1:45 p.m. - see Guidance
- **Friday, January 23** - Last day to add a class - see your Guidance Counselor
- **Wednesday, January 28** - Community College Night, 6 p.m., New Gym (See [article](#))
- **Thursday, January 29** - TriVocis mailing
- **Friday, January 30** - Winter Formal 8 p.m.-12 Midnight, Decathlon Club, Santa Clara - information on pg. 15 - [December Trivocis](#)

SAVE THE DATE

- **Tuesday, February 3** - PTA Meeting, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Ayers Dance Studio
- **Wednesday, February 4** - Parent Education Special Event, Lloyd Thacker Presentation "Studenthood Counts: Making Education Matter" 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., New Gym
- **Tuesday, February 10** - Spring Student/Athlete/Parent Sports Information Night, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Library
- **Friday, February 13** - Trivocis submission deadline
- **Friday, February 13** - No school - Lincoln's Holiday
- **Monday, February 16** - No school - President's Holiday

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ESL TUTOR PROGRAM

Is it your New Year's Resolution to make a difference? Become an ESL Tutor! The frenzy of fall and the holidays are over - - do you have time once a week to brighten someone's life and make

a difference at M-A? We need you! Additional ESL students and changes in our tutors' schedules mean that we are looking for tutors to help once a week in ESL classes. No foreign language or prior tutoring experience is required; the teachers will tell you all you need to know to tutor. Let us know when you are available during school hours and we'll find a spot for you. Here are times we need tutors:

Wednesdays, 7:50 - 9:25 a.m. Help ESL-2 students with reading and writing
1:45 - 3:20 p.m. New student needs 1-on-1 practice with vocab. and speaking
Thursdays, 9:40 - 11:20 a.m. Help several ESL-2 students with reading and writing
10:00 - 11:20 a.m. Help three brand new ESL-1 students who speak no English
12:05 - 1:40 p.m. Lead a book group with 3 students

Please contact Linda Fornaciari at laderalinda@mac.com to volunteer.

ADMINISTRATION

M-A OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENT

Julia Ransohoff: The Prize Patrol Visits Menlo-Atherton. No...no one won a million dollars from Publisher's Clearing House. Even better, Julia Ransohoff has been named one of California's best young scientists via the national Intel Science Talent Search Award! Julia was not sure what was awaiting her as she lingered patiently in Ms. Day's science room as the Prize Patrol walked down Pride Hall with an oversized \$1,000 check, a balloon bouquet and a bag of goodies from Intel. Her prize winning research topic is entitled "The Gender Divide: Does Donor Gender Matter for Mesenchymal Stem Cell Transplantation?" According to Wikipedia, "The mesenchymal stem cells can be activated and mobilized if needed. However, the efficiency is very low. For instance, damage to muscles heals very slowly. However, if there was a method of activating the mesenchymal stem cells then such wounds would heal much faster." If you want a straightforward description that most of us can understand, just ask Julia. She eloquently described her project before the Prize Patrol and a proud group of staff members as well as for NBC 3 News. We are very proud of her hard work and determination. We are now looking forward to Wednesday, January 28, when the 40 semi-finalists will be named.

A Calculus & Statistics Informational Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 20, 7 p.m., Room D-20. An information meeting will be held for Pre-Calculus and other interested parents discussing the differences between AB and BC Calculus and why a student might choose to take AP Calculus or AP Statistics.

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ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Last Chance for Project Backpack!

Deadline to bring lightly used or new backpacks, warm clothing, and toiletries to the Career Center is this Thursday, January 22! Help fill backpacks at lunch this week in room G-4!

Please consider donating items and joining the Outreach Club in distributing items on Friday, January 23 in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. You must bring a copy of your Driver's License and Insurance card to the administration office by Wednesday, January 21. Email student Eric Siegel at outreach@mabearspta.org with questions.

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**Leadership.** The year of 2008 was a great success for 5th Period Leadership! Students worked hard and managed to reach their goals set this summer, and are looking forward to a new year in which the committees have created new and improved goals. Among the goals are:

- Consulting with a Stanford environmental specialist and relaying the knowledge gained to the student body.
- Continuing to work with Built to Last students, socially and academically.
- Planning a Culture Week with a festival and assembly to celebrate the rich cultural diversity at M-A.
- Helping the My New Red Shoes foundation to provide new clothes and shoes for underprivileged children.
- Advertising school clubs to make them more known throughout the student body and holding a Club President Summit with the goal of training clubs to continue their momentum year after year.

Our group of leaders is excited to make a difference in our school, community and the world.

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The Winter Formal will be held on Friday, January 30, 8:00 p.m. - midnight at the Decathlon Club, 3250 Central Expressway, Santa Clara.

TICKET PRICES and DATES:

- January 20-23 (T-F) Single: \$45 Couple: \$80. **No checks or guest passes will be accepted after Friday, January 23.**
- January 26-27 (M-T) Single: \$50 Couple: \$90 January 28 (W) \$55 for everyone Ticket sales will conclude promptly at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 28, 2009. Tickets may sell out prior to this date. Absolutely no tickets will be sold at the door!

No refunds. \$10 fee assessed for ticket changes. GUEST PASSES are available in B-21 and on the MAHS website starting Wednesday, December 10. For more information, please check out page 15 of the December issue of the TriVocis.

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COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER

COLLEGE COUNSELING TOOL

Please remind your students (particularly Juniors) to register on Naviance. This site (www.naviance.com) is a web-based counseling tool. Go to the "About College" link on the menu on the left and go to "Enrichment Programs." Students were given access codes from their Guidance Counselor. If they no longer have their access code, please contact their counselor or Ms. Kleeman in the Career Center. Students registered on Naviance may access information on college searches, scholarships and summer programs.

PARENTS OF SENIORS (JUNIOR FAMILIES TOO, IF INTERESTED): Community College Night, Wednesday, January 28, 6:00 p.m., new gym. Seniors and their parents (as well as interested juniors and parents) will learn everything important about community college. Representatives of local community colleges will be there to answer questions, and a panel will treat topics such as "Getting Started: What To Do Next," "Financial Aid and EOPS," "Transfer Programs," "Career Programs, Certificates, Two-Year Degrees," "Student Life." Free pizza! Students and parents are highly encouraged to attend. RSVP to Alice Kleeman at aakleeman@aol.com.

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COMMUNITY

MENLO PARK

Walk to Take Action on Climate Change in Menlo Park on January 24, at 1:30 p.m. Do you have one to two hours to walk a neighborhood in Menlo Park on Saturday, January 24, from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. to take action on climate change? Acterra's Green@Home program, in partnership with the City of Menlo Park, is distributing flyers announcing its free HouseCall home energy savings program for residents of Menlo Park. Join us at 1:30 p.m. to pick up flyers and maps to distribute at Trinity Parish, Trinity Hall, 330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park.

For more information about the Green@Home program or volunteering to walk, go to

www.acterra.org, call Twana Karney, 650-962-9876 , ext. 316 or email at

twanak@acterra.org. To schedule a free HouseCall in Menlo Park, call Liz Muir, 650-962-9876 , ext. 350 or email greenathome@acterra.org.

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ATHLETICS



All the Scores and More!
(Click [here](#) for This Week's Calendar)

Frosh/Soph Girls Basketball has an 11-3 record to date, and, are enjoying a 6 game winning streak!

Boys Varsity Basketball team started out their league season in winning form with victories over Sequoia and Half Moon Bay. On Wednesday, M-A defeated Sequoia 58 to 50. Jeff Keller led the scoring with 18 points and Sam Knapp added 16. On Friday, M-A prevailed over Half Moon Bay 64 to 56. Peter DeFilipps scored 20 points, Knapp had 15 and Keller added 11. Come support the Bears at their next home game this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. against Terra Nova.

Boys Frosh/Soph Basketball Team won their first league game against Sequoia 56-15 on Wednesday. The leading scorers were McKinley Mathon, Michael Culhane and Chace Warren.

The M-A Varsity Wrestling Team fell to South San Francisco in their first league dual meet on Thursday, 27-50. Six Bears scored victories over South City opponents: Dino Andrightto won by pin, Andre Delagnes and Matt Fitzgerald won by decisions, Steven Gregory scored a major decision, and Roger Tonna notched a technical fall. Koji Kameda also racked up a pin for the JV team.

The wrestling team traveled to Half Moon Bay on January 13 for a dual meet. While Half Moon Bay won, several wrestlers scored big victories. Freshman Steven Gregory, Sophomore Koji Kameda and Junior Vincent Maier all pinned their opponents. Senior Matt Fitzgerald scored a major decision, winning by a score of 12-3. And, Freshman Dino Andrightto won by minor decision, outscoring his opponent 7-5. The team's next meet is this weekend when they will compete in the Jim Root Classic wrestling tournament.

UPCOMING SPORTS TEAM INFORMATION

Girls Lacrosse starts this Tuesday, January 20 at 3:30 p.m. on the M-A field behind the stadium. Please ensure you have completed your "Permit To Participate" packet. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Sandford at bubbasandford@gmail.com.

All boys interested in playing for the M-A Golf Team - please contact Coach Buff Guirlani at

buffg@jps.net or (650) 533-3809 .

Interested in playing lacrosse this year? The first practice is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20. Participation packets should already have been turned in. Packets can be picked up in the AVP office, or downloaded from [here](#).

Interested in playing on the M-A Tennis Team? For critical information, contact Coach Aguilar at caguilar@cbtnorcal.com. The first day of tennis practice is Monday, January 26, 2009.

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BEARNOTES SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- Email submissions to [your BearNotes Team](#) by Thursday midnight, 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](#).

Menlo-Atherton PTA does not endorse third-party events or submissions, nor take responsibility regarding the content of any third-party websites.

Go Bears. Grrrr!

Your BearNotes Team,
Julie Brody, Kris De Lisle and Pam Stoner
M-A High School PTA BearNotes