



MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL BEARNOTES

PUBLISHED BY M-A PTA

AUGUST 17, 2009

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Know someone who could use BearNotes? Forward this newsletter to them so

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday, August 17** - Freshman Orientation, 8 - 9 a.m., Ayers Gym
- **Monday, August 17** - Freshman Parent Coffee, 8 - 9 a.m., Staff Lounge Courtyard ([see article](#))
- **Wednesday, August 19** - First Day of Instruction. Class Schedule Distribution, 7 a.m., New Gym

SAVE THE DATE

- **Tuesday, September 1** - PTA General Meeting, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. ([see article](#))
- **Thursday, September 3** - M-A 101 - An Introduction to M-A with Principal Matthew Zito, 10 - 11:30 a.m. OR 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the M-A Library ([see article](#))
- **Friday, September 4** - Last day to add a class
- **Monday, September 7** - Labor Day Holiday, no school
- **Thursday, September 10** - Back to School Night, Welcome by Principal Zito at 6:30 p.m. in Old Gym. Parents will rotate through periods starting at 6:50 - 8:15 p.m. (ending at 8:30 p.m. for students with 7th period classes).
- **Friday, September 11** - Trivocis submission deadline
- **Saturday, September 12** - M-A Boys Golf Classic Tournament fundraiser, 9 a.m. ([see article](#))
- **Monday, September 14** - Parent Education Night, 7-8:30 p.m. in M-A Library ([see article](#))
- **Wednesday, September 16** - Picture make-up day, Wrestling Room
- **Friday, September 25** - Freshman Family Welcome, 6 - 7 p.m., Girls Soccer Field
- **Friday, September 25** - Welcome Back Dance, 7 - 10 p.m., outside on the Green ([see article](#))

The 2009-2010 District Calendar is available [here](#).

BEARNOTES - REMINDER ON PUBLICATION INFORMATION

that they can sign up using the button below.

Not Getting BearNotes?

It's a new year and with that a whole new audience for BearNotes! Here are a couple of tips for publication.

To submit articles for BearNotes, please send them to bearnotes@mabearspta.org by midnight on the Thursday prior to publication. Even if you know the editors, please do not send submissions to private email addresses. Indicate the subject matter in the message header. Generally, articles are run no more than twice and we recommend early lead time with a week's space between messages. Keep messages as concise as possible.

For regular publication, student achievements are published which are directly connected to school activities. Twice a year (before winter break and summer break) we will publish student and staff's outside achievements. The PTA reserves the right to edit articles and does not endorse third party events or submissions. Finally, we cannot publish attachments. For events which require a lot of information, we suggest publication of a flyer on a website to which the article is linked.

Looking forward to a great year!

Your BearNotes Team,

Julie Brody, Rosalie Cornew and Kris De Lisle

PTA



CALLING ALL M-A VOLUNTEERS!

Welcome Back Staff Breakfast - We need volunteers this Tuesday morning!

Please help us welcome back our wonderful staff at the PTA-sponsored Welcome Back Staff Breakfast on **Tuesday, August 18**. We would love your **help setting up from 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.** and **servicing from 7:30 - 10 a.m.** Please contact Lisa Major at lisamajor@earthlink.net or (650) 364-2094 if you can help! Thank you!

Volunteers Needed for ESL Tutoring! Everyone is welcome!

If you have an hour or so a week to volunteer, please consider being a tutor to M-A students in the English Language Development program. No foreign language experience is required! You will work with no more than 2 students under the direction of the classroom teacher to help them with basic English vocabulary and grammar, and reading and writing skills. This is a wonderful opportunity to offer guidance and assistance to the students that truly need your help! Please contact Marla Stark at marlastark@mac.com or Diane Jones at dianevsj@sbcglobal.net to sign

up. And for those of you who need to split the volunteer time, we will pair you with another tutor so you can share the weekly commitment. **We can make this work for you! Thank you so much!**

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**ATTENTION ALL FRESHMAN FAMILIES! You are invited to the Freshman Family Welcome Dinner!**

Don't miss this opportunity to meet other Freshman families! Please join us at the traditional potluck dinner on Friday, September 25, 6 - 7 p.m., on the Girls Soccer Field. Please bring enough for 6-8 people:

**Last Name:**

**A-H - Entree**

**I-S - Salad**

**T-Z - Dessert**

Drinks will be on sale for \$1.00 and the proceeds will go to the Freshman Leadership Class. Please contact Rose Mein at [rwmmp@aol.com](mailto:rwmmp@aol.com) or (650) 854-4286. We look forward to seeing you there! The Welcome Back Dance follows this event from 7-10 p.m. on the Green.

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PARENT EDUCATION EVENTS

Need information to navigate M-A? Here is an event you won't want to miss!

**M-A 101: Orientation to Menlo-Atherton High School, with Principal Matthew Zito
Thursday, September 3, 10 - 11:30 a.m. OR 7 - 8:30 p.m. Menlo-Atherton Library**

New and returning families! Please join us for the first PTA Parent Education Series 2009-2010 event on Thursday, September 3. "M-A 101: Orientation to Menlo-Atherton High School" offers an inside look at the operation and structure of M-A. Presenters include Principal Matthew Zito, one of our terrific Guidance Counselors, as well as current and recently-graduated students. This event will be offered in two time periods (morning and evening) on September 3. Light refreshments served from 9:45 - 10 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Charlene Margot, Parent Education Chair, at parenteducation@mabearspta.org or (650) 868-0590.

**SPECIAL PARENT ED EVENT! Robert A. Compton, Executive Producer of "2 Million Minutes," A Documentary Film on Global Education
Monday, September 14, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Menlo-Atherton Library**

In a very special event, the M-A Parent Education Series offers a showing of the highly-regarded documentary, "2 Million Minutes," and a presentation by Robert A. Compton, Executive Producer of 2MM. From the time 8th graders graduate, they have about two million minutes until high school graduation...Two Million Minutes to build their intellectual foundation...Two Million Minutes to prepare for college and ultimately career... How a student spends their Two Million Minutes - in class, at home studying, playing sports, working, sleeping, socializing or just goofing off -- can affect their economic prospects for the rest of their lives.

Space is limited!! To RSVP, please contact Charlene Margot, Parent Education Chair, at parenteducation@mabearspta.org or (650) 868-0590. Special thanks for this evening to Gamiel Gran of Sierra Ventures and to Linda Fornaciari, President of the Foundation for the Future.

For detailed information on Parent Education Events, see the website:
<http://www.mabearspta.org/ParentEdEvent.html>.

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## FIRST PTA MEETING OF THE 2009/2010 SCHOOL YEAR

The first PTA meeting of the school year will be held on Tuesday, September 1 at 8:30 a.m. in the Old Dance Studio. ([See 2009-10 Campus Map.](#)) Mr. Zito will join us to give us a look at the year ahead. We look forward to seeing you there! Questions about joining PTA? Please contact Lisa McNamara at [lisajmcnamara@gmail.com](mailto:lisajmcnamara@gmail.com).

**e-SCRIP. This year, eScrip matters more to M-A than ever!** Make every purchase count for our kids by registering your grocery, debit and credit cards with eScrip. The merchants contribute to M-A; it costs you nothing. M-A's ID is 136550465. Here's how you can support our school:

- New to eScrip? Register online at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or contact Emily Liggett at (650) 867-8662 to register by mail. Have your cards available.
- Already registered with eScrip? Make sure you're up-to-date with your cards (such as Safeway, Macy's, MasterCard, VISA, American Express, debit cards) and with your recipients (like Menlo-Atherton High School PTA, 136550465) We love your elementary and middle schools - but please include M-A as a recipient of the merchant contributions. You can designate up to three organizations to receive contributions. You can check online ([www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)) or contact Emily Liggett ([emliggett@pacbell.net](mailto:emliggett@pacbell.net)) or (650) 867-8662).
- Renew your Safeway card by going to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), signing in and click on the "Renew" button.
- Invite your family and neighbors to register for eScrip, too, to their purchases count for M-A. Just forward this message to them.

Thank you for supporting our school and our children!

## COMPUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Do you need help? Can you help provide used computer equipment? The M-A PTA wants to make sure that every M-A student has access to a working computer at home. If you (or your office) has spare equipment, working or not, please contact us. If your computer at home has a virus or doesn't work, if you are missing essential software, or if there is no computer at your house, contact us and we can help you at no cost. Contact Sue Kayton, [kayton@alum.mit.edu](mailto:kayton@alum.mit.edu), or phone (650) 853-1711. We securely erase all data off the drives of donated computers, and can provide a receipt for tax write-offs.

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## ADMINISTRATION

### DROP-OFF INFORMATION

Especially at the beginning of the school year, please plan on arriving earlier in the morning as the student drop-off zone will be congested. You might also want to come 10 to 15 minutes after the afternoon bell for pick-up to avoid waiting. **Please remember to pull as far forward in the zone as possible before stopping so that other parents can reach the passenger loading area.** *Practicing patience and courtesy will make the process smoother and safer for all students!* For further details, refer to the website information at <http://mabearspta.org/transportation.html>.

**MENLO-ATHERTON BELL SCHEDULE** - Do you need to know when your student is starting school and changing classes? You can access the bell schedule here -

[http://mabears.seq.org//index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=48](http://mabears.seq.org//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=48).

### **BEAR PRIDE FRIDAYS**

Who wears maroon and gold, screams for their teams and supports the best school around? Yep, it is the Menlo-Atherton Bears!!! Join us this year as we continue to build upon our vibrant and enthusiastic school spirit by wearing maroon and gold or Bear Wear EVERY Friday. Of course, we invite all students, staff, and family members to wear Bear Wear if on campus on Fridays. We want to see a sea of maroon and gold EVERY Friday! We will hold events for people showing their Bear Pride and host giveaways to encourage people to share in the fun. Don't be left out!

**Bear Wear may be purchased** at lunch and at special events in the Student Store or on-line at <https://www.prepsportswear.com/>. We earn 10% of each sale made from on-line sales. M-A, YOU KNOW!!! GO BEARS!!!

### **WELCOME BACK DANCE**

Our Welcome Back Dance will be held on Friday, September 25 from 7 - 10 p.m., outside on the Green. Tickets will be for sale at Arena Check-In for the special price of \$5. All students will need their 09-10 student ID to purchase tickets. Once school begins, tickets will cost \$10. **We will not be selling tickets at the door** so it is really important for students to purchase their tickets by the end of lunch on Friday, September 25.

### **WELCOME TO M-A CLASS OF 2013**

Freshman Transition Peer Leaders from the 10th, 11th and 12th grades are ready to welcome and guide the new class of 2013! At M-A, we have developed a culture of support and guidance from upperclassmen to our newest Bears. See you for a great first day at M-A. And, don't miss the 6th Annual Freshman Family Welcome on Friday, September 25 from 6 - 7 p.m.!

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## **FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE**



### **ATTENTION ALL INCOMING FRESHMAN FAMILIES!**

#### **Freshman Parent Coffee**

Please join us for a parent coffee on the morning of Freshman orientation. Meet M-A principal, Matthew Zito and learn more about M-A! The event is Monday, August 17, 8 - 9 a.m. in the Staff Lounge Courtyard. Drop your freshman off and join us for a cup of coffee and pastries. Sponsored by M-A's Foundation for the Future. Contact Charlene Cogan with any questions at [ccogan@apr.com](mailto:ccogan@apr.com).

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## **BAND NEWS**

**ADVANCED JAZZ BAND REHEARSALS** the final summer rehearsal date is Monday, August 17 in Room S-1.

**FALL BIG BAND DANCE and NEW BAND CALENDAR 2009-2010.** The tentative new band calendar is already out. Please check our website [www.mabandboosters.org/](http://www.mabandboosters.org/). Because of the spring date for PTA Fashion Show, M-A's Swing and Sway Big Band Dance band fund raiser will be held in the fall, **Friday, October 30**, from 8 - 11:30 p.m.

**NEW BAND CHAIR 2009-2010.** Please welcome our new Band Booster Chair, Laura Hale at [laurabethp@aol.com](mailto:laurabethp@aol.com).

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## ATHLETICS



**DON'T MISS IT! The 5th Annual M-A Boys Golf Classic Tournament** - Saturday, September 12! The M-A Boys Champion Golf Team invites you to join us in a great day of golf and our only fundraiser to support our team for the 2009-2010 season. 9 a.m. shotgun start golf tournament hosted at Coyote Creek Golf Club. BBQ, raffle, prizes and celebration to follow on the patio. **Register and pay \$195** after August 13. Price includes all fees, cart, water, prizes, range balls and BBQ. Contact Jackie Anderson with any questions or to register at [jackie\\_anderson99@yahoo.com](mailto:jackie_anderson99@yahoo.com) or (650) 544-6510. This tournament is open to all level of players.

**PRE SPORT PHYSICALS.** Tuesday, August 18, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. No appointments needed, first come, first served! Physicals are \$20.00 payable with cash, check, or credit card. Physicals will be held at BAK Physical Therapy, 705 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025. For questions, call (650) 363-5674.

**SEE YOUR NAME ON COACH PARKS FIELD!** A new scoreboard has been purchased that will time and score for football, lacrosse, soccer and track. Any family who donates \$250 or more to help off-set this expense, will get their name on a large banner that will be attached to the new scoreboard. Please let Mark Culhane at [mark.culhane@demandtec.com](mailto:mark.culhane@demandtec.com) know if you are interested in offering your support!!

**NEW BOOSTERS' CO-CHAIRS.** Athletic Boosters is pleased to announce that Di Gow and Beth Henninger have stepped up to co-chair our organization for the 2009-2010 school year. Thank you to these dedicated volunteers for taking on these roles that are so important to the ongoing viability of our athletic program. We are still in need of leaders for our favorite event...**The Big Bear Run**, slated for May 2, 2010. If you're interested in leading a fantastic community event, please contact Di Gow at [dianegow@crimson-consulting.com](mailto:dianegow@crimson-consulting.com). Thank you!

### **VOLLEYBALL TRYOUTS!**

Varsity practice will be in Ayers Gym on Monday, August 17, at 3:30 p.m.

Frosh/Soph will have open gym in Ayers Gym on Monday, August 17. Tryouts will be held on Tuesday, August 18 at 3:30 p.m. in Ayers Gym and Wednesday, August 19 at 3:30 p.m. in the Old Gym. Questions? Please contact Dianna Branning at [dianna.branning@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dianna.branning@sbcglobal.net).

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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, Rosalie Cornew, Kris De Lisle  
M-A High School PTA BearNotes

#### [Forward email](#)

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