



MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL BEARNOTES

PUBLISHED BY M-A PTA
SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

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**Not Getting
BearNotes?**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday, September 7** - Labor Day Holiday, no school
- **Wednesday, September 9** - All band family potluck
- **Wednesday, September 9** - no block schedule, periods 1 - 7
- **Thursday, September 10** - regular block schedule
- **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** - Wednesday block schedule today (7:50 - 1:40 p.m.)
- **Friday, September 11** - Trivocis submission deadline
- **Saturday, September 12** - M-A Boys Golf Classic Tournament fundraiser is **canceled**

SAVE THE DATE

- **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

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

PTA WEBSITE CALENDAR

Check out the PTA Calendar - <http://mabearspta.org/calendar.html>. This calendar can help you keep track of both school and PTA events.

BEARNOTES INFO

SERVING A DIVERSE POPULATION

Welcome to new BearNotes members! We've added folks who signed up at Arena, and have sent out the few BearNotes issues separately to them for reference purposes. We have a diverse student (and parent) population. We'd like to explore two issues this week.

First, BearNotes is an excellent source of information for your **students!** Please encourage them to sign up to get information that they might miss during a busy school day.

Second, we've been asked about providing BearNotes in other languages. While we don't have the resources on a weekly basis to provide a translated version, a reasonable resource exists to help - Babelfish. Babelfish is a translation service available on the web. While not 100 percent perfect, it is reasonably accurate according to our "tester." If you would like to get a translated version of BearNotes, try the following:

- Open this web page: <http://babelfish.yahoo.com/>.
- At the top of the BearNotes newsletter is a link to view this newsletter as a webpage. Click on the link, which will open a webpage version of BearNotes.
- Copy the web address at the top of the BearNotes web page and paste it into the "Translate a web page" box on the Babelfish webpage.
- Choose the "to and from language" pair from the pull-down menu.
- Click the "translate" button. After a few seconds - tada, a translated version of BearNotes will appear.

If you have suggestions for BearNotes, we welcome them. Please drop us a line at bearnotes@mabearspta.org.

Your BearNotes Editors,

Julie Brody, Rosalie Cornew and Kris De Lisle

ATHLETICS



REPORTING SPORTS SCORES

Longtime BearNotes readers know that we publish announcements regarding M-A's athletic teams - scores, game results and other global information. To make sure that team scores are reported, please nominate ONE parent to provide a report to the BearNotes email box. We'd like to receive and report both Varsity AND JV results. Please check the spelling of student names. To ensure timely publication, submit scores within 24 hours of games which happen on Friday and Saturday, with a deadline of noon on Sunday. Space constraints will limit the amount of information which can be published.

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PTA



JOIN THE PTA

The M-A PTA membership drive is on! We spend more than \$100 per student to maintain excellence in teaching innovation through our mini-grants, as well as enhance the whole learning and work experience at M-A through vital programs such as Challenge Day. Please check the [membership page](#) for information and to find a form to mail to the office. Thanks!

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### M-A PTA PARENT EDUCATION EVENT

#### WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TWO MILLION MINUTES?

It is about how long our children have from the end of 8th grade to use high school resources to build an intellectual foundation for college, a career and a successful life. See the following two links for a fascinating preview peek.


<http://www.2mminutes.com/about.asp>  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/2MillionMinutes>


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. The presentation will be from 7 - 8:30 p.m. on Monday, September 14 in the M-A Library.

Space for this event is limited!! To RSVP, contact Charlene Margot, Parent Education Chair, at (650) 868-0590 or [parenteducation@mabearspta.org](mailto:parenteducation@mabearspta.org).

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

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

 **CHALLENGE DAY.** For the past 6 years, Challenge Day has kicked off the year-long "Be the Change" program for M-A freshmen. It has proven to have a definite and lasting impact at the high school, creating a more positive atmosphere at Menlo-Atherton High School. For 2009, the Freshman Challenge Days are November 2 and 3. 180 volunteers are needed for the 2009 Challenge Day program, 90 on each day. Details on the shifts and effort needed are on the following website: <http://mabearspta.org/Volunteer.html#Anchor-2009-23856>. To volunteer, email the co-chairs at ChallengeDay@mabearspta.org with "Challenge Day Volunteer" in the subject line and rank your preference of days.

 **ALL HANDS ON DECK - A call to help tutor students in the After-School Homework Centers**

We are looking for volunteer tutors to assist in after-school homework centers. Students need help completing assignments in Math, English, Science and Social Studies. We have a wonderful group of students who are willing and able to work hard to achieve success. Please help to ensure graduation for all of our students. The Homework centers are already staffed with teachers, text book clerks, and instructional associates. However, we are experiencing an increase in the amount of students who are willing to work hard on homework after school. Please join us by sharing your knowledge with these wonderful students during these times:

Monday: 2:30 - 4 p.m.
Tuesday: 2:30 - 4 p.m.
Thursday: 1:40 - 3:30 p.m.

Please contact Andy Stuart at astuart@seq.org or at (650) 322-5311 x5252.

 **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ESL PROGRAM!**

Do you have an hour or so a week that you might consider giving to an M-A classroom? Please join us in tutoring basic English to non-native English-speaking students. You would be assigned to the classroom of your choice, at a time which matches your weekly schedule, where you will be working with no more than two students on their class room studies. Your goal is to help them learn to read, write and speak English--so no other foreign language experience is needed. The teacher will provide you with all study and reading materials, and will give you specific guidance on the assigned work. And we will be having a tutor orientation coffee the week of September 1 to give you an introduction to the program and basic tips. Please volunteer now by contacting Marla Stark at marlastark@mac.com or Diane Jones at dianevsj@sbcglobal.net, and choose your preferred date and time. Classes available are as follows:

ELD 1 and 2 combined (JJ Lee Gilbert):
Wednesdays 2nd Period: 7:50 - 9:25 a.m.
Thursdays 3rd Period: 9:40 - 11:20 a.m.

ELD 3 (Marei Kane):
Thursdays 10 - 11:20 a.m.

We are happy to work with you to "job share" a time slot if needed. This is a worthy and

rewarding experience, one which we think you will enjoy. THANK YOU!

SUPPORT THE AVID PROGRAM

AVID PROGRAM TUTORS NEEDED

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is looking for college age or other adult volunteers to work with our students during tutorial periods. Tutors need not be experts in any one subject, just patient and able to facilitate a small study group (with training and support from the AVID teachers). Most tutorials happen on Wednesday and Thursday during the block periods. One training session outside of school hours will be held TBA. If you are interested, please contact Rachel Andres at randres@seq.org or (650) 521-2406.

SPEAKERS NEEDED - SHARE YOUR CAREER EXPERIENCE

Would you like to share your enthusiasm for your career with teens headed for college? AVID is a program for students in the middle who are individually motivated to go to college but may lack skills or are under-represented or are first generation college students. This class prepares students to be eligible to apply and succeed in a four year university. If you love your job and would like to share your path with interested students, please contact Mrs. Burton-Tillson at cburton@seq.org. Preferred presentation days are Fridays but all days are available. Currently the AVID classes are looking specifically for speakers for **these occupations** (but we welcome any careers!)

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ADMINISTRATION

NEW INFORMATION ON THE M-A WEBSITE REGARDING FLU PREVENTION

Please see the following site for three flyers which can help your family prepare for the impending flu season. <http://mabears.seq.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=629>.

LEARNING YOUR WAY AROUND M-A? M-A Parent Ambassadors are here to help!

The Ambassadors are a network of experienced, knowledgeable and friendly parent volunteers who know the "ins and outs" of our school. Whenever you need information or advice regarding school activities, resources or policies & procedures, please don't hesitate to contact any of us!

2009-10 M-A Parent Ambassadors

Trish Gump	gumpfamily@ymail.com	(650) 854-3085
Leslie Mayerson	lwmayerson@yahoo.com	(650) 324-0975
Debbie Pinkston	debbie.pinkston@hds.com	(650) 556-1887
Timi Most	timibmost@gmail.com	(650) 854-3074
Carol Orton	carolornton@mac.com	(650) 321-4418

Community Ambassadors

Catherine McMillan (bilingual French)	gregandcat@gmail.com	(650) 321-8202
Lilly Quinonez (bilingual Spanish)	lilly_qnz@yahoo.com	(650) 430-3889
Steve & Sela Teu (bilingual Tongan)	s4steu@gmail.com	(650) 799-7161 Steve (650) 630-7176 Sela

Student Ambassadors - To reach student ambassadors, please contact Kelly Todd at (650) 322-5311 ext. 5250 or ktodd@seq.org. Michael Culhane & Shivana Khatod (Juniors) and Chelsey Barnes, Ashley Roberts & Mackenzie Lanigan (Seniors).



PLANNER CHANGES

There are some significant changes to the school planner. Please see this link to annotate the planner changes. http://mabears.seq.org//index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=321&Itemid=71.



PSAT/SAT PREP CLASS - Enroll now for classes beginning September 14

"M-A's Own" is entering its 30th year reading students for the PSAT in October and for the SAT test as well. Juniors are given preference, Seniors that need to take the SAT will be enrolled. Sophomores will be wait listed. The basic fee is \$100.00 and includes all materials necessary - the top fee is \$225.00 or \$15.00/hour for tutoring. Classes will run five weeks in Room B10 from 3:30 - 5 p.m., Monday and Tuesday. There is a no refund, no make-up policy unless the school calendar interferes, and then students will vote on a day for make-up. Contact Jane King now to enroll at jcking@juno.com or 323-4066. Remember our motto: "As good as the best and better than all the rest."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

EDUCATIONAL FORUM. Attend a free educational forum, Wednesday, September 23, to view John Merrow's latest documentary video, "California Schools: America's Future", an update to "First to Worst: the Roots of California's Education Crisis", to be followed by a panel discussion moderated by John Merrow.

The forum will be held from 7 - 9 p.m. at Bayside Theatre, 2025 Kehoe Ave., San Mateo. Questions? Please contact for kids! The San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation, (650) 312-7235, www.forkidsedfund.org. The web addresses link to flyers which provide more information - <http://www.forkidsedfund.org/Merrow.pdf> (english) and <http://www.forkidsedfund.org/MerrowSPANISH.pdf>.

HOUSING NEEDED. Do you know of someone who has a room in a house, cottage, or an apartment available for rent on the Peninsula? A former M-A coach needs housing. He can pay the market rate, or can pay a reduced rate in exchange for helping with household chores. Male, non-smoker, no pets. Your help is appreciated! Please email sewphie1@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

PROJECT READ BENEFIT - Taste Desserts! for Literacy

Saturday, September 26, 7 - 9 p.m. at the Menlo Park Library
Silent Auction/Live Music/Delicious Desserts from Local Vendors
This event will raise funds for Project Read - a program that helps students improve language skills. Many students have improved their employment possibilities as a result of this program. Tickets are on sale for General Admission, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door (kids are free). Please contact Kathy Bales at bales.r@sbcglobal.net.

GU15 SOCCER PLAYERS WANTED

Stanford Lightning, a girls U15 team (born after 7/1/94) of the Stanford Soccer Club is looking for a few solid soccer players to join our fun and competitive class 3 CYSA team. Practices are Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Mayfield in Palo Alto . If interested, contact Coach Ed Cervantes at prospero1960@yahoo.com or Manager Joe Rizza at jerizza@sbcglobal.net or (650) 888-2428. For more information go to <http://www.stanfordsoccerclub.org>.

FALL BALL LACROSSE - Vitality Lacrosse is looking for players.

Games are Sundays from October 11 - November 15, between 10 - 4 p.m., at John Mise Park in Saratoga. Session length is determined by division, as follows: U-15 is a 30 minute instructional component followed by an one hour game, High School Boys play a 1 1/2 hour game and the Men's Open is a 1 1/2 hour game. Before September 27, fees are \$125, starting September 27th to the start of the season fees are \$150. For more information and registration - www.vitalitylacrosse.com. We look forward to seeing you this Fall!

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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