

TRIVOCIS

THREE VOICES . . .

STUDENTS, PARENTS, FACULTY

JUNE 2009
VOLUME 56, NUMBER 9

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL
555 MIDDLEFIELD RD., ATHERTON, CA 94027 WWW.MABEARS.ORG 650/322-5311

From the Principal

Dear Menlo-Atherton Community:

A Big Bear Welcome

Let me begin this month's TriVocis with a warm welcome to new M-A families. You have made a great choice in selecting Menlo-Atherton. While the matriculation to high school is a major life transition, your child will be guided through the process and provided support throughout their ninth grade journey and beyond. Our graduates are well prepared and well seasoned for the challenges that await them in life, preparation that begins the very first day of freshman year.

Tips for New Parents and Students

On a practical note, I encourage you and your budding M-A Bear to become familiar with the physical campus and its myriad buildings. The campus was built in many phases and can be confusing to navigate when all students are present. In particular, learn the locations for the following: locker room entrances, the Guidance Office, Pride Hall (the main hallway that divides the campus and runs through the "B", "C", "D", and "E" Wings), the vice-principal's office in the administrative wing, the bike cage, the SamTrans stops for the #85, #295, and #296 buses (if applicable), and the new gym which faces Ringwood Avenue. Schedules are always distributed at 7:10 am on the first day of each semester in the new gym.

Once your child learns their class locations, they should find a convenient hall locker to use for the year. Sturdy combination locks are assigned by Aubrey Orcutt in the vice-principal's office. Finally, develop a communication system with your child and establish regular pick-up and drop-off locations and times. If possible, avoid driving onto campus immediately before class begins or at the exact time of dismissal as you will likely be ensnarled in traffic.

Understand that your children will come home exhausted from school during the first weeks of the semester. I suggest allowing them time to decompress from their day before engaging them in conversation. This should reduce eye rolling and the incidences of blank stares and one-syllable answers.

Campus Reconfiguration – Key Changes for Fall

The campus will appear slightly altered when it re-opens in August. Our main Ringwood Avenue driveway onto campus will move closer to the main tennis courts. It will no longer exist in its current location near Middlefield Avenue. The driveway's pathway through campus will align tightly with the west side of the new theatre and should improve the flow of traffic through campus. Senior parking will be restored to the corner of Ringwood and Middlefield; a new masonry wall will be built along the entire length of Middlefield to replace the tired chain link fence. New drainage equipment, paving, lighting, entry gates, and landscaping will also be installed. The large front patio between the library and theatre will be given a face-lift, and the temporary parking lot and bike cage installed on the basketball courts will be removed. I believe these changes will improve the campus appearance, accurately representing the quality of a Menlo-Atherton education.

News Brief

M-A student Amrita Sehgal was recognized with a fifty-thousand dollar Young Epidemiology Scholar's Award in late April. Only two of these highly competitive and prestigious awards were given. Amrita's research into teen calcium in-take was cutting-edge and took place at the Institute of Clinical Outcomes Research and Education (ICORE) in Palo Alto. Amrita wondered if teenagers were taking enough calcium to prevent osteoporosis later in life. Her work, "Can We Start the War Against Osteoporosis Early? Are Teenagers Taking Enough Calcium?" found that only 38 percent of students met the requirement for their daily recommended calcium intake. Her research found that teens got less calcium in their diet as they got older.



Congratulations Class of 2009!
Senior Week Activities p. 16

Tuesday, June 2:

Senior Picnic: 8:00 am
Senior Awards Night: 7:00 pm

Wednesday, June 3

Senior Breakfast: 9:00 am
Graduation Rehearsal: 10:15 am

Thursday, June 4

Graduation Ceremony: 4:00 pm
Grad Night Party: 9:30 pm check-in

M-A Jazz Band at Nativity Carnival

Saturday, June 13, 4:00-5:30 pm

5th Annual Golf Tournament p. 14

Saturday, Sept. 12, 9:00 am
Early bird pricing by August 13

Freshman Family Welcome p. 15

Friday, September 25, 6:00-7:00 pm

Arena Check-In p. 18

Wed., August 12: Freshmen & Seniors
Thurs., August 13: Sophomores & Juniors

First Day of School: Wed., August 19

Volunteers needed for Fall '09:

Freshman Challenge Day p. 11

Arena Check-In p. 20

Sign up for BearNotes and paperless
TriVocis: www.mabearspta.org

On behalf of the TriVocis team, have a
safe and enjoyable summer!

Send articles for next issue by August 17
to trivocis@mabearspta.org

On May 18, science instructor Lance Powell (biology and environmental chemistry) was awarded a \$10,000 teaching award by biotechnology leader Amgen for his outstanding teaching and work in nurturing science inquiry. The “Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence” is designed to recognize teachers in public and private schools whose dedication to their students’ education has had a significant impact on the learning and interest of the future generations of scientists. This year’s judges selected six winners in California in an impressive pool of candidates from across the state. With his mastery of the subject matter, Mr. Powell is truly effective in the classroom through his use of innovative lesson plans and creative teaching methods. Lance distinguishes himself further through the quality relationships he develops with students and the outstanding use of hands-on experiments.

This year, Amgen partnered with the top-ranked University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Curriculum and Instruction to judge this competitive award program. Applicants were judged on categories including innovative science lesson plans, creativity of teaching methods, effectiveness in the classroom, and the plans for using the grant money to improve science education resources in their schools.

M-A seniors have now sent their “Statements of Intent to Register” to colleges all over the United States and even the world, from Florida to Holland to Maine to Michigan to Washington to northern and southern California. The economic downturn caused students and their families to make some difficult yet thoughtful decisions, but when it all shook out, the class of 2009 had a varied array of excellent college options. Watch for a list of their college destinations that will be available near the end of May on the M-A website.

Respectfully,
Matthew Zito, Principal

Estimada Comunidad de Menlo-Atherton:

Una gran bienvenida de los Osos

Permítanme empezar el Trivocis de este mes con una cálida bienvenida a las nuevas familias de M-A. Han hecho una maravillosa elección al elegir Menlo-Atherton. Como inscribirse en la escuela secundaria es una gran transición en la vida, su hijo/a será guiado/a a través del proceso y se le brindará apoyo durante su experiencia en el noveno grado y en adelante. Nuestros graduados están bien preparados y listos para los obstáculos que les espera en la vida, preparación que comienza desde el primer día del noveno grado.

Consejos para los nuevos padres y estudiantes:

Como consejo práctico, les animo a ustedes y a su principiante Oso de M-A que se familiaricen con el campus físico y su multitud de edificios. El campus se construyó en muchas fases y puede resultar confuso navegar por él cuando está lleno de estudiantes. Sobre todo, aprendan las ubicaciones para lo siguiente: las entradas a los vestidores; la oficina de consejería; Pride Hall [el pasillo principal que divide el campus y pasa por las Alas “B”, “C”, “D”, y “E”]; la oficina del Vice Director en el ala administrativa; la jaula de bicis y las paradas de SamTrans para los autobuses #85, #295, y #296 (si corresponde); y el Nuevo Gimnasio que da hacia la Avenida Ringwood. Los horarios siempre se distribuyen a las 7:10 de la mañana del primer día del semestre en ese edificio.

Una vez que su hijo aprenda las ubicaciones de sus clases, deberá buscar un lóquer de pasillo cómodo para usar durante el año. Se asignan candados de combinación fuertes a través de Aubrey Orcutt en la oficina del vice director. Por último, desarrolle un sistema de comunicación con su hijo/a y establezca lugares y horas regulares de recogida y llegada. Si es posible, eviten entrar con el coche al campus inmediatamente antes de que empiecen las clases o en el momento exacto de salida, ya que probablemente quedarán atrapados en el tráfico.

Entiendan también que su hijo/a llegará a casa de la escuela muy cansado/a durante las primeras semanas del semestre. Sugiero que le den tiempo para aclimatarse después de su día antes de involucrarlo en una conversación. Esto debería disminuir caras de aburrimiento y reducir la incidencia de miradas vacuas y respuestas monosilábicas.

Reconfiguración del campus – Cambios clave para el otoño

El campus parecerá un poco cambiado cuando vuelva a abrir en agosto. La entrada principal al campus por Ringwood Avenue estará cerca de las canchas principales de tenis. Ya no estará en su actual lugar cerca del cruce con Middlefield Avenue. El camino de entrada por el campus irá alineado estrechamente por el lado oeste del nuevo teatro y deberá mejorar el flujo del tráfico por el campus. Se restaurará el estacionamiento para los de 12º grado en la esquina de Ringwood y Middlefield; se construirá un nuevo muro a lo largo de Middlefield para reemplazar la vieja valla metálica. Nuevo equipo de drenaje, pavimentado, iluminación, portones de entrada, y jardinería también se instalarán. El gran patio delantero entre la biblioteca y el teatro se renovará, y se eliminarán el estacionamiento y la jaula de bicis temporales que se instalaron en las canchas de básquetbol. Creo que estos cambios mejorarán la apariencia del campus y representarán correctamente la calidad de la educación de Menlo-Atherton.

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M-A HS PTA News
17th District CCPT
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Articles Editor: Kim Carlisle
Production Editor: Gale Lane
Calendar Editor: Kathleen Balestra
Proofreaders: Judith Weber, Jane King
Mailing Committee: Debbie Hall, Jane Little

The purpose of the newsletter is to promote communication between the administration/faculty and parents. We welcome all your comments, suggestions, and articles. The mention of any business or service in this newsletter does not imply an endorsement by the M-A PTA. Send submissions by e-mail to trivocis@mabearspta.org.

2009-10 Publication Dates		
Issue	Deadline	Mailing
Sept	Aug 17	Aug 27

Noticias breves:

Se le concedió a Amrita Sehgal un Premio del Joven Estudiante de Epidemiología por cincuenta mil dólares a finales de abril. Sólo dos de estos premios altamente competitivos y prestigiosos se galardonaron. La investigación de Amrita sobre el consumo de calcio entre los adolescentes es vanguardista, y tomó lugar en el Institute of Clinical Outcomes Research and Education (ICORE) en Palo Alto. Amrita se preguntaba si los adolescentes tomaban suficiente calcio para evitar la osteoporosis al hacerse mayores.

Su trabajo, “¿Podemos empezar temprano la guerra contra la osteoporosis? ¿Toman los adolescentes suficiente calcio?” demostró que sólo el 38 por ciento de los estudiantes cumplían los requisitos para el recomendado consumo diario de calcio. Su investigación reveló que con el paso de los años los adolescentes ingerían menos calcio en su dieta.

El 18 de mayo el profesor de ciencias, Lance Powell (de biología y química medioambiental) fue galardonado con un premio de enseñanza de diez mil dólares por el líder de biotecnología Amgen como consecuencia de su destacada enseñanza y trabajo cultivando la investigación científica.

El Premio de Amgen por la Excelencia de Enseñanza de las Ciencias está diseñado para dar reconocimiento a profesores en las escuelas públicas y privadas cuya dedicación a la educación de sus estudiantes ha tenido un impacto importante en el aprendizaje e interés de futuras generaciones de científicos.

Este año los jueces eligieron a seis ganadores en California de entre un impresionante conjunto de candidatos de todo el estado. Con su dominio de la materia, el Sr. Powell es realmente efectivo en la clase mediante el uso de planes de instrucción innovadores y métodos de enseñanza creativos. Lance se distingue aún más por la calidad de las relaciones que desarrolla con los estudiantes y el uso extraordinario de experimentos prácticos.

Este año, Amgen se asoció con la prestigiosa Universidad de Wisconsin en Madison y su Facultad de Currículo e Instrucción para juzgar este competitivo programa de premios.

Los solicitantes fueron juzgados en una escala de 100 puntos en categorías que incluían innovadores planes de instrucción científica y creativos métodos de enseñanza; la eficacia en la clase y el plan para el uso del dinero de la beca para mejorar los recursos de la educación de las ciencias en sus escuelas.

Los estudiantes de 12º grado de M-A ya han enviado sus Declaraciones de Intención de Inscripción a universidades por todo Estados Unidos y hasta por todo el mundo, desde Florida a Holanda a Maine a Michigan a Washington a California, de norte a sur. La crisis económica hizo que los estudiantes y sus familias tomaran decisiones difíciles y serias, pero a final de cuentas, la clase de 2009 tuvo una gama variada de excelentes opciones de universidades. Busquen una lista de destinos universitarios que estará disponible hacia finales de mayo en la página web de M-A.

Atentamente,

Matthew Zito, Director

Un Mensaje de sus co-Presidentas PTA Salientes, Janet Perez y Denise Bullwinkel

Queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento por este año fabuloso que hemos compartido. Ha sido de verdad un placer trabajar con un equipo tan comprometido, inteligente, sincero y profesional. Un equipo donde cada quien ha aportado sus propios talentos para mejorar M-A. Al Sr. Zito y su equipo administrativo, a nuestros profesores quienes con su compromiso día tras día aseguran un futuro más brillante a todos los estudiantes de M-A, a los numerosos miembros del PTA y familias que con su generosidad en tiempo y soporte financiero han convertido sueños en realidad, a todos ustedes les damos nuestro más sincero agradecimiento por haber compartido juntos esta gran aventura!

Dejamos el PTA en las manos muy capaces de sus co-Presidentes ingresantes Lisa McNamara y John McMurty.

En admiración,

Denise Bullwinkel y Janet Perez, 2008-2009 PTA co-Presidentas

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR OUTGOING PTA Co-PRESIDENTS, Janet Perez and Denise Bullwinkel

We would like to express our gratitude for the tremendous year we have shared. It has indeed been a pleasure to work with such engaged, intelligent, sincere, and professional team members who use their individual talents to improve M-A. To Mr. Zito, his administrative team and staff, and our teachers, whose commitment each and every day ensures a brighter tomorrow for all M-A students; to the many PTA member volunteers and families, whose generosity in time and funding have made dreams become a reality, we give our heartfelt thanks for this great adventure we have shared!

We leave the PTA in the capable hands of your incoming PTA co-Presidents, Lisa McNamara and John McMurtry.

In admiration,

Denise Bullwinkel and Janet Perez, 2008-2009 PTA Co-Presidents

2008-09 M-A PTA Service Awards

Each spring, the PTA presents awards to worthy individuals and organizations whose service to the M-A community has been outstanding. This year is no exception, and the PTA was delighted to present awards to the following recipients at the May Appreciation Luncheon held on May 20.

Much gratitude and appreciation to our recipients for their volunteer efforts to make M-A better for the students, staff, and community at large:

PTA Continuing Service Award

- Judy Hood
- Charlene Margot
- Leslie Airola-Murveit
- Debbie Verity

PTA Service Awards

- Margaret Costello
- Kimberly Carlisle
- Kris De Lisle
- Gale Lane
- Lisa Major
- Kay O'Neill

PTA Community Service Awards

- Suzanne Amato
- Laurie Knapp
- Mary Hom

PTA President Awards

- Denise Bullwinkel
- Janet Perez

2008-09 PTA Bear Farewell Awards

*By John McMurtry and Lisa McNamara,
2009-10 M-A PTA Co-Presidents*

Each spring, the PTA must say goodbye to some of our best volunteers who will be leaving M-A when their youngest child graduates in June. This year is no different, and the PTA honored the following longtime volunteers with a PTA Bear Farewell Award at the May Appreciation Luncheon.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Judy Bloom | ▪ Marilyn Loftness |
| ▪ Sarah Fitzgerald | ▪ Charlene Margot |
| ▪ Debbie Hall | ▪ Anne Mellenthin |
| ▪ Mary Hom | ▪ Leslie Airola-Murveit |
| ▪ Judy Hood | ▪ Linda Sako |
| ▪ Jody Horowitz | ▪ Eileen Van Rheenen |
| ▪ Diane Kelvie | ▪ Debbie Verity |
| ▪ Laurie Knapp | ▪ Virginia Weiss |

M-A PTA June Bear Hugs

The PTA would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who have made this 2008-09 year a fantastic time to be at M-A. Some of the committees will continue to work until the end of the year, but we would like to acknowledge their hard work at this time.

Student Awards Night:

Leslie Rehlander
Alice Hom
Kathy Wright

The Senior Breakfast:

Julie Brody
Charlene Cogan
Sara Fitzgerald
Diane Kelvie
Kristin Gananian
Suzanne Amato
Laurie Knapp
Judy Hood

Grad Night 2009:

Debbie Verity
Charleen Margot
Stacia Weisenfluh
Debbie Hall
Julie Gaston
Gretchen Flanagan

We would like to thank all the PTA members at M-A High School for your commitment to the school and to the PTA. As an organization, we have tried to do our utmost for the children of M-A, and without the support of the membership and all the amazing volunteers, the PTA could not function. Over 12,000 hours were documented and donated to M-A High School PTA this year. Thank you so much!!!!

The PTA would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Athletic Boosters and of the Foundation for the Future. The fundraising efforts of the Big Bear Run and the successful Foundation auction have been extraordinary in raising revenue to support our school.

It is with great pride that we all work together to help meet the needs of our diverse and dynamic school.

From the Guidance Office

By *Silvia Torres-Garza*, Head Guidance Counselor,

Francine Andrade, Gregory Baumann, Karina Escobar-Weaver, Paula Kousounadis, and Julie Watts, Guidance Counselor

Due to the budget cuts, summer school has been reduced to only one site, Sequoia High School. Therefore, the number of students selected for summer school will be greatly reduced. Priority will be given to current seniors and juniors who need to make up a failed class. If you have any questions, you need to contact the summer school office directly at (650) 839-8980 or email summerschool@seq.org.

Students who wish to enroll in summer school classes outside of the Sequoia Union High School District Summer School Program must complete the appropriate paperwork before enrolling in classes. Students should see their guidance counselors to obtain the appropriate forms. Students who take approved summer school classes outside of the Sequoia Union High School District Summer School Program in order to accelerate need to provide the Guidance Office with a transcript by August 3, 2009. Please note that seniors (class of 2010) who need 10 credits of physical education (P.E.) at the beginning of their senior year will be placed in a P.E. class in the 2009-10 academic year.

You should have received a letter with a list of your student's schedule for next year. Ninth and tenth grade English, math, and science placement levels may change after we receive the STAR test results in August 2009.

Secondary School Reports

Students who apply to private colleges frequently need a Secondary School Report from their guidance counselors. They will need to complete a recommendation packet, which includes their college essay, parent statement, peer statement, an unofficial copy of their transcript, and envelopes addressed to the colleges/universities with two first-class stamps per envelope. Students can access the recommendation packet through www.macareercenter.com and through Naviance. It is listed as Recommendation Request Packet. It is to students' advantage to give this packet to their guidance counselor early. **Students need to submit their recommendation packets in person to their guidance counselors as follows:**

- **For Early Action:** Tuesday, September 29, 2009.
- **For Regular Decision:** Friday, November 6, 2009.

Additional Deadlines for the Class of 2010:

All required courses for graduation, including safety education, that are taken via distance learning must be completed by **December 1, 2009**, and the Guidance Office must receive the final transcript no later than **December 11, 2009**.

Concurrent Enrollment for Class of 2010

Please note that if senior students plan to take P.E. or any other classes required for graduation (e.g., Health Science 100 is equivalent to safety education), seniors **must complete** all credits by the end of the Fall 2009 semester and the Guidance Office must receive your final transcript by December 11, 2009. If our office does not receive a final transcript by this date, we will schedule the senior student into the class(es) needed for graduation during second semester of senior year.

Please refer to the information listed below for the credit conversion for students who take P.E. classes at a community college:

Colleges on a Semester Schedule: Cañada College, College of San Mateo, Skyline College: 1 unit of P.E. at college = 2.5 credits of P.E. at Menlo-Atherton High School.

Colleges on a Quarter Schedule: Foothill College: 2 units of P.E. at college = 2.5 credits of P.E. at Menlo-Atherton High School.

Students interested in this option must pick up a schedule of classes for the community college(s), as well as the respective concurrent enrollment form(s), and see their guidance counselors. Please note that the College Connection concurrent enrollment registration for the 2009 summer and fall semesters at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College begins on May 26, 2009. Summer school classes begin on June 22, 2009, at Cañada College and College of San Mateo, and on June 8, 2009, at Skyline College. Fall classes begin on August 19, 2009, at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College.

Distance Learning

Please note that if students plan to take a class online through our Distance Learning program in order to meet a graduation requirement, they **must** complete the class by the end of the first semester of their senior year. In order to complete a class, a student needs to take an exam at Menlo-Atherton High School. These exams need to be ordered in advance from the Distance Learning Institution and are usually proctored by a staff member in the Guidance Office after school. It is the student's responsibility to complete the coursework needed at least one month in advance of the date of completion. For the Class of 2010, that day is December 1, 2009. This allows time for the student to order the exam, schedule an appointment in the Guidance Office, take the exam, and wait for the results to be factored into the final grade. The student's final transcript with the grade for the class must be received by our office no later than the last day of the first semester of senior year. For the Class of 2010, that day is December 11, 2009.

Please note that a student must complete a distance learning application which must be pre-approved by Menlo-Atherton H.S. and District Office personnel before the student can take a class through Distance Learning. A student may only take one class at a time through Distance Learning. Distance Learning applications are available in the Guidance Office. More information on approved sites is available at www.seq.org.

Finals

Finals are coming, and your student will need your support for the final stretch of this school year. There are several ways to support your student during this time. One is to check with your student about final test and/or project due dates and his/her progress in preparing for such finals. Another is to help the student organize class materials and prioritize time

Guidance, cont'd

needed to prepare. When preparing for finals, students should confirm with their teachers what to expect on the final exams, review class notes and previous quizzes/exams, attend classes regularly, and stay on top of current homework. We also recommend your student get involved in study groups and make use of strategies, such as using flashcards, to help them memorize content. Most important, encourage and support them to do their best. **Final exams for seniors begin the week of May 25. Finals for students in grades 9 through 11 start on June 1.**

SENIORS! SENIORS! SENIORS! -- Remember that you will be required to complete the annual Senior Exit Survey through Naviance. You will also need to submit your request to have your final transcript mailed to the college you will be attending this fall. Forms are located in the Guidance Office. **Please include a stamped envelope addressed to the college and \$2, for each transcript you request.** Since our office will close at the end of June, you will need to make sure you give us enough time to process your transcript request. The last day to request your final transcript to be sent to colleges or universities is June 19, 2009.

Class of 2013: The Guidance Office needs a copy of your birth certificate or a valid copy of your passport.

Please note: Any requests or support you need from the Guidance Office needs to be completed no later than June 26, 2009. The Guidance Office will be closed the month of July and will re-open on August 3, 2009.

We congratulate the Class of 2009 for their hard work and effort at Menlo-Atherton High School. We wish you the best of luck in their future endeavors.

De La Oficina de Consejería

*Por Silvia Torres-Garza, encargada del Departamento de Consejería,
Francine Andrade, Gregory Baumann, Karina Escobar-Weaver, Paula Kousounadis y Julie Watts, consejeras.*

Debido a los recortes en el presupuesto escolar, la escuela de verano se ha reducido solamente a una escuela, Sequoia High School. Por lo tanto, el número de estudiantes seleccionados para tomar escuela de verano será reducido en una gran cantidad. La prioridad se le da a los alumnos que actualmente están cursando el doceavo y onceavo grado quienes necesitan retomar una clase que han reprobado. Si ud. tiene preguntas, necesita comunicarse con la oficina de escuela de verano al (650)839-8980 ó por correo electrónico summerschool@seq.org.

Los estudiantes que deseen inscribirse en clases de verano fuera del programa de verano ofrecido por el distrito escolar de Sequoia deben completar el/los formulario/s apropiado/s antes de inscribirse en la/s clase/s. Los estudiantes pueden ver a sus consejeros para obtener el/los formulario/s apropiado/s. Los estudiantes que toman clases de verano aprobadas por nuestra escuela fuera del programa de escuela de verano ofrecido por el distrito escolar de Sequoia, con el propósito de tomar una clase mas avanzada el próximo año académico, necesitan presentar un expediente académico a la Oficina de Consejería a más tardar el 3 de agosto del 2009. Por favor tome nota, los estudiantes del doceavo grado (clase del 2010) que necesitan 10 créditos de educación física al empezar su último año escolar serán colocados en una clase de educación física durante el año académico 2009-10.

Ustedes deberían de haber recibido una lista de las clases de su estudiante para el próximo año. Es posible que haya cambios de nivel en las clases de ingles, matemáticas o ciencias para los estudiantes del noveno y décimo grados, después de que recibamos los resultados de los exámenes del estado de California en agosto del 2009.

Reporte de Escuela Preparatoria "Secondary School Report"

Los estudiantes en el onceavo grado, quienes enviaran aplicaciones a las universidades privadas frecuentemente necesitan una Reporte de Escuela Preparatoria "Secondary School Report" de sus consejeros. Ellos necesitan completar un paquete de cartas de recomendación, el cual incluye una copia del ensayo para la universidad, una declaración acerca del estudiante escrita por los padres, una declaración acerca del estudiante escrita por un compañero, una copia del expediente académico del estudiante, y sobres con los nombres, direcciones de las universidades y dos estampillas en cada sobre. Los estudiantes pueden tener acceso a el paquete de cartas de recomendación en el sitio: www.macareercenter.com y a través de Naviance. Esta enlistado como Paquete de Petición de Recomendaciones (Recommendation Request Paquet). Es una ventaja para los estudiantes que entreguen el paquete de cartas de recomendación temprano a sus consejeros. **Los estudiantes necesitan entregar personalmente el paquete completo a las consejeras como sigue:**

Para Decisión Temprana: martes, 29 de septiembre del 2009.

Para Decisión Regular: viernes, 6 de noviembre del 2009.

Fechas Límites Adicionales para la Clase del 2010:

Todas las clases que son requisitos de graduación, incluyendo educación de seguridad, que se toman a través de Aprendizaje a Distancia deben ser completadas a más tardar el **1 de diciembre del 2009** y la Oficina de Consejería debe recibir el expediente académico final a más tardar el **11 de diciembre del 2009.**

Registración/Inscripción Simultánea (Concurrent Enrollment) para la Clase 2010.

Por favor note que si estudiantes del doceavo grado planean tomar Educación Física o alguna otra clase requerida para graduación (i.e. Ciencias de Salud 100 es equivalente a Educación de Seguridad) estudiantes del doceavo grado **deben completar** todos los

Consejería, cont'd

créditos para el final del semestre de Otoño 2009 y la Oficina de Conserjería debe recibir el historial académico para Diciembre 11 del 2009. Si nuestra oficina no recibe un historial académico final para esa fecha, nosotros programaremos a los estudiantes en las clases que necesitan para graduarse durante el segundo semestre del doceavo año.

Por favor refiérase a la información enlistada abajo por la conversión de calificación para estudiantes quienes toman clases de Educación Física en un Colegio Comunitario:

Colegios en Programa de Semestre: Colegio Cañada, Colegio de San Mateo, Colegio Skyline.

Colegio: 1 unidad de Educación Física equivale a 2.5 créditos de Educación Física en la Escuela Secundaria Menlo Atherton.

Colegios en Programa de Trimestre: Colegio Foothill: 2 unidades de Educación Física en colegio equivalen a 2.5 créditos de Educación Física en la Escuela Secundaria Menlo Atherton .

Estudiantes interesados en esta opción deben recoger un programa de clases para colegio(s) comunitario(s), así como la respectiva forma(s) de registración simultanea y ver a sus consejeros. Por favor note que la registración simultanea de Conexión de Colegio para el verano y otoño 2009 en los colegios Cañada, San Mateo y Skyline empieza en Mayo 26, 2009. Las clases de verano empiezan en Junio 22, 2009 en los colegios Cañada, San Mateo y en Junio 8, 2009 en el colegio Skyline. Las clases de otoño empiezan en Agosto 19, 2009 en los colegios de Cañada, San Mateo y Skyline.

Aprendizaje a Distancia (Distance Learning)

Por favor note que si los estudiantes planean tomar clases a través del programa de Aprendizaje a Distancia para cumplir los requisitos de graduación, los estudiantes deben completar las clases al final del primer semestre del doceavo grado. Para completar la clase, el estudiante necesita tomar un examen en la escuela Menlo-Atherton. Estos exámenes necesitan ser ordenados con anticipación a la institución de Aprendizaje a Distancia y tienen que ser supervisados por personal de nuestra oficina de consejería. Es la responsabilidad del estudiante completar el trabajo necesario por lo menos un mes antes del final del primer semestre. Para la clase del 2010, este día es el 1 de diciembre del 2009. Esto permite tiempo para que el estudiante ordene el examen; haga cita con el personal de la oficina de consejería, tome el examen, y espere que los resultados sean incorporados a su calificación final. El expediente académico con la calificación final para esta clase debe de ser recibido en nuestra oficina a más tardar el 11 de diciembre del 2009. Si nuestra oficina no recibe el expediente académico final para esta fecha, nosotras vamos a inscribir al estudiante del doceavo grado en las clases que necesita para graduación durante el segundo semestre del último año.

Por favor note que si el estudiante debe completar la aplicación del programa de Aprendizaje a Distancia, la cual debe ser pre-aprobada por la escuela de Menlo-Atherton y la Oficina del Distrito antes de que el estudiante pueda tomar esa clase a través del programa de aprendizaje a distancia. El estudiante puede tomar solamente una clase a la vez a través de aprendizaje a distancia. Las solicitudes para aprendizaje a distancia están disponibles en la oficina de consejería. Para más información de las instituciones educativas aprobadas, vaya al sitio www.seq.org.

Exámenes Finales

Los exámenes finales están por realizarse y su estudiante necesita su apoyo hasta el final del año escolar. Hay varias maneras de ayudar a su estudiante durante este tiempo. Una es revisar con su estudiante acerca de los exámenes finales y/o proyectos que tiene que entregar y revisar el progreso en la preparación para los exámenes finales. Otra es ayudar a organizar los materiales para las clases y priorizar el tiempo necesario para preparar. Cuando se están preparando para los finales, los estudiantes deben confirmar con los maestros que esperar en los exámenes finales, revisar las notas tomadas en clase, revisar los exámenes que han tomado durante el año, asistir regularmente a clases y estar al corriente en la tarea. También nosotros recomendamos que su estudiante se involucre con otros estudiantes, reunirse en grupos para estudiar y hacer uso de estrategias como usando tarjetas con notas para ayudarlo a memorizar la información. Más importante, déle ánimo y apoyo para hacer lo mejor que pueda. **El horario de los exámenes para los estudiantes del doceavo grado empieza la semana del 25 de mayo. Para los estudiantes del noveno al onceavo grado, los exámenes finales empiezan el 1 de junio.**

ESTUDIANTES DEL DOCEAVO GRADO! Recuerden que ustedes tendrán que completar la encuesta anual de salida "Senior survey" a través de Naviance. Ustedes también tendrán que someter su solicitud para mandar el último expediente académico a la universidad ó colegio que asistirá en el otoño. **Estas solicitudes se encuentran en la oficina de consejería. Por favor incluya un sobre con la dirección del colegio o universidad con su estampilla y dos dólares con cada solicitud.** Como nuestra oficina cerrará a finales de junio, necesitaran asegurarse de darnos tiempo suficiente para procesar su solicitud y enviar el expediente académico. El ultimo día para solicitar que su expediente final sea enviado a la universidad o colegio será Junio 19, 2009.

Clase del 2013: La oficina de consejería necesita una copia de su acta de nacimiento o una copia de su pasaporte válido.

Por favor tome en cuenta lo siguiente: Cualquier petición o apoyo que usted(es) necesiten de la oficina de consejería deben solicitarla(lo) a más tardar el 26 de junio del 2009. La oficina de consejería estará cerrada durante el mes de julio y volverá a abrir el lunes, 3 de agosto del 2009.

Nuestras felicitaciones para la Clase del 2009 por todo el esfuerzo y fuerte trabajo que desempeño aquí en la Escuela de Menlo-Atherton. Le deseamos a su estudiante la mejor de la suerte en todos sus futuros esfuerzos.

FROM THE COLLEGE/CAREER CENTER

Since I just returned from a visit to Oregon State University, I thought it might be fun to tell you a little about my travels, especially since it's tough to be away from the Career Center but it is definitely worthwhile!

Each year, I go on college tours, sometimes on my own (with some support from the Foundation) but often on "counselor fly-in" events sponsored by the colleges. For the fly-ins, the colleges invite anywhere from 15-45 counselors from all over the U.S. (and even from abroad); they cover our airfare, hotels, meals, and much more. Sometimes, several schools will collaborate on a college tour (the Peachtree Tour, for example, introduced me to several colleges in Atlanta; the BEANS tour included five Boston-area colleges; Decemberfest included ten—count 'em!—L.A.-area colleges). Others focus on one college, such as the tour I just took of Oregon State U.

On the college tours, we meet with students and faculty as well as Admissions folks and administrators. We tour the campus, see special facilities, and learn about programs and resources. Most tours also involve visits to the surrounding area so we can see what students would enjoy if they attended. At OSU, I learned about the Honors College, a variety of academic programs (engineering, education, agriculture, liberal arts, sciences, and more), admission requirements, support services, and more.

I return from these trips better able to identify students who might appreciate those particular colleges, and better acquainted with the Admissions people from that college. Getting to know other college advisors on the trips is also helpful both during the trip and after, as those people become a valuable resource network.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I should also add that we are wine and dine on these trips, though of course that has no impact on our willingness to talk to students about the colleges! It's a nice perk, though!

Helping students find a good college fit can be challenging; my visits to colleges are extremely helpful in this process. My absences from school are difficult, but I do remain available to students by e-mail while I am gone.

Alice Kleeman

Graphing Calculators At Menlo-Atherton

by Gregg Whitnah, Math Department Chair

Graphing Calculators are an integral part of math education at M-A. They are used in all classes beginning with Algebra II. Classes that use graphing calculators include Algebra II, AS Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics, Statistics, and AP Calculus AB and BC. Ninth grade Geometry students use scientific calculators in the spring semester but some students get graphing calculators instead knowing they will need them for Algebra II. They are also allowed on the SAT I and math subject test. The SAT I test is referred to as "calculator neutral," meaning you can use a calculator if you wish but all problems are solvable without one. The other standardized tests including the Math Subject Test, AP Statistics, and AP Calculus (AB and BC) require graphing calculators and some problems cannot be solved without one. They are also allowed in almost all math contests.

The most versatile calculator to buy for M-A math classes is the TI83 and 84 series. All teacher presentations will be made with TI equipment. (Please do **not** buy other brands like CASIO and HP.) The TI83's and TI84's all perform well but there are differences in prices and functions. The TI83+ is what many students purchase. The TI83+ silver edition has twice the RAM (memory) and runs twice as fast. The TI84 offers three times the speed of the TI83+, an improved display, even more RAM, and a USB port for students who want to transfer data between their calculator and computer. I would not buy a new or used TI83. TI86's are great but they do not do Statistics. TI89's will not be allowed on tests/quizzes at M-A.

Prices can vary tremendously depending on the store and the time of year. The most important information about pricing is they will always be considerably cheaper in the months of August and early September. Many stores such as Best Buy or Costco carry them as loss leaders and sometimes sell them at cost or below cost. The differences in prices can be as much as \$30 or \$40 in comparison to the rest of the year. I do not know what prices will be this upcoming August, but last year the TI 83+ was as cheap as \$80 during this brief one-month window. The TI83+ Silver Edition and TI 84's will cost approximately \$20 to \$30 more than a TI83+. Some students and parents buy their calculators through eBay where you can expect to pay half the price.

If you are a low-income family, M-A does check out TI83's and TI83+'s to students who cannot afford them.

If you do buy a TI graphing calculator on your own, please **save TI Technology Rewards symbol** which awards points for TI purchases. We can use these points for earning TI teacher presentation equipment. **Return your POINTS symbol to your son's or daughter's math teacher, or Mr. Whitnah in Room D20, or mail them to Mr. Whitnah at 555 Middlefield Rd, Atherton, CA 94027.** Questions? Send them to gwhitnah@seq.org.

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Supporting Excellence in Education

Almost There...

What an extraordinary year! While many non-profits have seen a serious decline in giving, thanks to the generosity of the M-A community, the Foundation for the Future has almost reached its \$1 million fundraising goal. Many thanks to every one of the hundreds of M-A parents that have donated to the 2008-09 Annual Campaign. You clearly understand that educational excellence must be a top priority in any economic climate.

If you have not yet given, or if you are able to increase your previous gift, please visit

<http://www.m-afoundation.org/donate.php> to donate online, or mail a check payable to "M-A Foundation for the Future"

P.O. Box 1228, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

M-A on eBay...a Big Boost!

Pushing us far towards our goal was the phenomenal success of our second annual on-line auction in March. M-A on eBay raised over \$90,000 during the 10-day event, almost twice as much as last year. Bidding for the 100 fabulous items donated by generous parents, teachers, and local businesses was lively and fun-filled. Thank you to all who participated.

A Warm Welcome, A Fond Farewell

For the 2009-10 year, the Foundation Board welcomes 16 new members who bring enthusiasm, energy and a wealth of experience from other educational foundations and fundraising organizations: Carol Collins, Mike David, Bruce Deal, Steve Fioretti, Karen Fryling, Gamiel Gran, Kate Mulligan, Gloria Principe, Chris Rivera, Pam Songer, Carol Sontag, Angela Sherry, Marti Tedesco, Susan Vaswani, Debra Yoder, and Lynne Young.

This crew must fill the shoes of our 14 talented retiring members: Mel Gallen, Katie Keating, Bill Kirsch, Kevin Lanigan, Marilyn Loftesness, Bryan Lovegren, Carol Maibach, Carin Pacifico, Anne Peck, Dave Quincy, Lisa Schatz, Greg Stroud, Kathy Wright, and Kim Young. These dedicated parents have our deepest gratitude for years of selfless service to M-A.

IT'S A GREAT DAY @ 

1000 Bear Hugs!

Big Bear Hugs to all the runners, walkers, volunteers, and sponsors who helped make the 4th Annual Big Bear Run a runaway success! Almost 1000 runners and walkers registered for the Big Bear Run this year – an amazing show of support for M-A athletics. The M-A Boosters raised over \$60,000 for grants to M-A's 52 athletic teams for equipment, assistant coach stipends, uniforms, and much more.

The race could not have taken place without the help of so many wonderful volunteers. The Big Bear Run committee chairs did an amazing job overseeing all the details related to food, logistics, t-shirts, sponsors, publicity, and race planning. Thank you to Suzanne Amato, Michelle Bercow, Julie Brody, Noreen Carruthers, Jeff Child, Lynne Clarence, Marybeth Dorst, Hilda Friedman, Di Gow, Diane Hester, Judy Hood, Elizabeth Johnson, Nancy Kessler, Corby Locke, Laurie Knapp, Marcia Makino, Susan Mohr, Cheryl Moreno, Cindy Newton, Janet Perez, Carrie Peterson, Chris Rivera, Kayla Skidmore, Jill Smith, and Darci Wentz. An additional 75 parents, students and friends came out on race day to help with set-up, registration, food and water, entertainment, marking the course, and cheering on the runners.

The M-A students who came out to support the athletes also deserve special recognition: Holly Smolik and her beautiful singing of the Star Spangled Banner, the Dance Team and its awesome energy, and the Sixth Man Club's Andy Creighton with his superb announcer skills all added a strong sense of M-A community spirit to the day. Members of the M-A Pep Band also came to school early on Sunday morning but unfortunately could not perform outside due to rain. Also, a special thanks to M-A parent Roger Inman and Interweave Production Group for providing a superb sound system - it was great to be able to hear both the music and the announcements. Most importantly, we appreciated all the race participants!



**Save the Date for the
5th Annual Big Bear Run
May 2, 2010.**

Thank you from your 2009 Big Bear Run Co-Chairs,
Michele Culhane and Beth Harris.

BEAR PRIDE FRIDAYS

Who wears maroon and gold and screams for their teams? Yep, it is the Menlo-Atherton Bears!!! Join us next year as we continue to build upon our vibrant and enthusiastic school spirit by wearing maroon and gold or Bear Wear 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 the Student Store or on-line at <https://www.prepsportswear.com/>. We earn 10% on each sale made.

M-A, YOU KNOW!!! GO BEARS!!!



**On behalf of over
950 M-A Athletes,
THANK YOU to all
of our Athletic
Booster donors
for 2008-2009!**

Anonymous
Carol & Verle Aebi
AIA/Eagle Marketing
Allen Equipment Company
Suzanne & Joe Amato
Anne & Lee Anderson
Karen Armstrong
Tami & Tom Arrington
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Ildiko & Robert Barker
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Yannette & Thomas Edwards
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Donna & Bob Fogel
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Dulcy Freeman & Kelly Foster
Annette & Greg Fountain
Fraiche Yogurt
Stacy & Frank Fredericksen
Hilda & Hal Friedman
Leslie & Steve Furney-Howe
Louise & Robert Gaffney
Kristin & Eric Gananian
Julie & Tom Gaston
Amy & Jonathan Geiduschek
Barbara & Eric Gilbertson
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Debbie & Russ Hall
Joanne Blum & Michael Hardy
Jody & Donald Harrier
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Cynthia & Robert Heinen
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Jackie & Frank Meercamp
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Gizela & Danta Renkel
Chris & Ed Rivera
Debra & Todd Roberts
Denise & Galen Rosenberg
Perryn & Timothy Rowland
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Linda & Tom Sako
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Barbara Coll & John Sebes
Priscilla & Nathan Seely
Corby Locke & Gary Shaffer
Jane & David Shimbo
Sigona's Farmers Market
Kayla & Jeff Skidmore
Lyle Smith
Kristin & Marty Smith
Jill & Stephen Smith
Joy Somerset
Kim Sommer
Pam & Ron Songer
Carol & Mark Sontag
Debra & Randall Springer
John Stacey
Beth & Mike Stanek
Cindy Newton & Fred Stanske
Starbucks, El Camino
Kathy & Doug Stevens
Jane Stites
Ann & Michael Stoner
Ruth & David Strehlow
Marina & Robert Sutton
Kathy & Brad Sylvester
Sylvia & Stefan Tamme
Susanna Tang – Financial
Advisor
Libby & Randy Tinsley
Laurie & Keith Tinyo
Heather & Paul Titterton
Tobias Physical Therapy
Sharon & Don Traeger
Sharon & Stephen Turner
24 Lost Soles
Debbie & Rob Verity
Loren & Victor Viegas
Maria & Patrick Walker
Mary & John Watson
Terri & Mike Watters
Lynne & Griffith Weber
Karen and Van Weiss
Wells Fargo Bank
Wentz Group
JoAnn Kukulus & Fred Wiener
Barbara & John Windham
Margaret & Philip Winters
Tina & James Witham

Freshman Challenge Day November 2 & 3, 2009

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THIS FALL AT M-A!

Challenge Day is coming to M-A for the sixth year, and we need your help! This freshman event, which kicks off our year-long “Be the Change” program, is sponsored by the M-A PTA with support from the principal, teachers and administrative staff. The entire freshman class will participate in this experience of a lifetime. At the end of each day, our goal is that the students will not only have bonded as a class, but also will have torn down old stereotypes and become inspired to live, study, and work in an environment of compassion, acceptance, and respect.

Since 1987, the Challenge Day programs have touched the lives of over half a million teens nationwide. In fact, “The Challenge Day Program” was featured on the Oprah show, in the book Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul and in the Emmy Award-winning documentary *Teen Files: Surviving High School*.

Challenge Day is a powerful, high-energy program in which youth and adult participants are guided through a series of experiential learning activities. The overall goals of the program are to increase personal power and self-esteem; to shift negative peer pressure to positive peer support; and to eliminate the acceptability of teasing, violence, and all forms of oppression. The Challenge Day programs are designed to unite the members of the school and to empower them to carry the themes of the program back to the greater school population.

Adult participation is crucial to the success of these two days! The freshman class will be divided so that half attend each day, and we are looking for 170 adult volunteers to help with this event. You can volunteer either Monday, November 2, or Tuesday, November 3. Volunteer positions include small group leader for 4-5 students (7:15 am-3:00 pm), or registration help (6:50 am - 8:15 am), or lunch server (10:00 am - 12:00 noon). Everyone is welcome – whether you are a parent of a freshman or upper-classman.

As you are making your volunteer plans for the school year, please take time to consider making a real difference in the lives of teens at MAHS in this awesome way. **To volunteer for any of these positions, please e-mail: Barb Windham or Peggy Propp, PTA Co-chairs of Challenge Day 2010, at challengeday@mabearspta.org.** Please put “Challenge Day Volunteer” in the subject, and include your preferred position and available date(s) in the e-mail.

Packed Spring Schedule Continues as Jazz Combo Places 6th at Reno Jazz Festival

By Mary Hom, *Outgoing Band Booster Chair*, tream5@juno.com

M-A's Jazz Combo took sixth place in its category at the Reno Jazz Festival on April 25, only the second time that a M-A Jazz combo has placed in this renown competition.

Outstanding musicianship awards were given to Lucas del Calvo on guitar and Gilbert Fix on bass.

The M-A Jazz Band had stiff competition in its AA category which is based on school size. The band received excellent marks, with outstanding musicianship awards given to Charlie Fitz on tenor sax and Lucas del Calvo on guitar.

The Advanced Jazz Band delighted audiences at The Sequoias in Portola Valley as they provided entertainment the evening of Friday, May 8.

M-A bands were in *two* more late-season festivals in May:

> The Advanced Jazz Band received superior marks from all three judges for performance at the Santa Cruz Jazz Festival on May 9, with outstanding musicianship awards given to Holly Smolik on vocals and Tom Ivy on clarinet.

> Many of the same musicians changed tempo and joined the rest of the Concert Band as they competed at the CMEA Band Competition at Gilroy High School on May 15.

Two days later, the atmosphere was both mellow and jumpin', as only live jazz music at an outdoor venue can be, at the Jazz Party Fundraiser held at the Stanford Golf Clubhouse, on May 17. There was ample shade and food for all as the Jazz Band provided entertainment under ideal temperature and weather conditions.

Our Spring Concert and Senior Awards Ceremony was held on May 20 at Carrington Hall in Redwood City. All bands will play at the graduation ceremony on June 4.

The M-A Jazz Band will have its final “encore” performance at the Nativity Carnival, Saturday, June 13 from 4 to 5:30 pm. Be sure to mark your fall calendar with October 9-10, 2009, for the planned opening of M-A's new Performing Arts Center (PAC).

All Hillview alumni or M-A Band members are also invited to join the Hillview Band as they take the field to play the National Anthem for the Giants' home game on August 28.

Please visit our website for more information on band events: <http://www.mabandboosters.org/index.html>

M-A Robotics Wraps Up Successful Season

This year, the M-A Robotics team performed well at all three competitions it entered – Silicon Valley, Davis, and Atlanta. The team's sleek black and yellow machine was both elegant and effective, helping M-A place 7th out of 47 at Silicon Valley. Some redesign complications resulted in a lower placement at Davis (32nd out of 44), but the redesign helped lead to a very respectable 15th out of 87 placement in our division at Atlanta, a nationwide competition.

As the senior team members are graduating, the team will be actively recruiting new members to participate in the coming year, or possibly even as early as this summer. You don't need to have any experience, just interest – you will have the opportunity to learn about all sorts of things, from mechanical design to electronics to programming to animation, as well as having a lot of fun.

For more info contact: info@marobotics.org.

SPIRIT LEADERSHIP

By Megan O'Neill and Michael Farzi

Fourth period leadership has been rocking out their last quarter of the 2008-2009 school year. Our beloved Senior Bears are preparing for graduation after their spectacular circus-themed prom. Their dedication and incredible work ethic has inspired not only the juniors and sophomores of Spirit Leadership, but the entire school as well. Though they will truly be missed, the graduating class of 2009's legacy will endure at Menlo-Atherton High.

Fortunately for M-A, the graduating seniors will be replaced with an amazing junior class. This year, the class of 2010 has raised over \$10,000 for their AIDS Kit Build philanthropy. The event itself was incredibly successful, with over 300 kits made with essential items for caregivers of AIDS patients. By helping people thousands of miles away, the Menlo-Atherton community was united under one philanthropic cause. A highlight of the event was listening to Princess Zulu, whose life has been directly affected by the epidemic. She explained one of the most crucial parts of the kits is the personalized note, included by its builder. The caregivers who receive this note get a rush of joy and relief, with the knowledge that there are people who care and are thinking of them so far away.

Lastly, the sophomores ended the year with two school events, first of which was the Spring Carnival. So full of food and fun, the rain even decided to join in. Precipitation was no discouragement for the steadfast clubs that sold food. Sophomores also recognized Menlo-Atherton teachers and staff during national Teacher Appreciation Week. The week included a continental breakfast, posters and decorations, a dessert buffet, as well as reusable plastic water bottles to keep the school green and hydrated. Even though the school year is coming to a close, M-A's Leadership program does not stand idle. It is true that we are wrapping up the 2008-2009 school year events, but we are already thinking ahead excitedly to next year. We'll start out by welcoming our new freshmen Bears to our school in August, and our new sophomore additions to leadership. We will all be united by our rallies with our famous cheers, and we will work together to produce dances and noontime events that will exceed this school year's, as well as work together to conjure up school spirit. It's been a great year, Bears, and we look forward to an even better one ahead of us!

BEARS ABOVE THE REST: SPRING STUDENTS OF THE MONTH HONOREES

This year, we are continuing to honor our diverse student body based not only on achievement, but also on dedication and effort. We would like to congratulate our English, Social Studies, Science, Built to Last, and Special Recognition recipients who were honored at the May Menlo-Atherton Student of the Month luncheon. We honor these Bears for their dedication, hard work, and achievement within their individual classes.

Congratulations to:

GRADE	NOMINATING TEACHER	STUDENT NAME
ENGLISH		
9 TH	ESL 1	Roberto Rodrigues
10 TH	John McBlair	Hallee Foster
10 TH	BB II	Soane Fisiahi, Diana Garcia, Sadie Minto
SOCIAL STUDIES		
9 TH	John Florio	Jack Beckwith
10 TH	John Florio	Julia Sylvester
11 TH	John Florio	Ben Nuyens
12 TH	John Florio	Raissa Masket
SCIENCE		
9 TH	Nancy Day, Freshman Bio	Andra Bailard
10 TH	Lance Powell, Academy Bio	Kyle MacKenzie
11 TH	Jeff DeCurtins, AS Physics	Bryce Aebi
12 TH	Mike Hughes, Physics	Paola Tovar
BUILT TO LAST		
10 TH	Ruth Cossey	Shonnel Stewart
10 TH	Kristi Breisch	Marilyn Opeta
10 TH	Kristi Breisch	Tiu Lolohea
10 TH	Kristi Breisch	Tim Prado
SPECIAL RECOGNITION		
10 TH	Mona Klein	Vincenzo Lo Grasso
10 TH	JJ Lee-Gilbert	Yudi Martinez

These students are being recognized for a variety of reasons, but the one quality that they all have in common is that they serve as great role models for their fellow Bears. GOOOOOOOO BEARS!!!!

STUDENT OFFICERS FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

We are very proud to announce the student officers who will lead our Associated Student Body through the 2009-2010 school year:

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY CABINET

PRESIDENT: Ani Loshikajian

TREASURERS: Vanessa Renkel and Hale Tussing

SECRETARY: Jessica Kirton

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Community Service and Club Relations – Laura Mayen
and Misha Schwarz

Environmental Committee – Chloe Songer
Culture – Chelsey Barnes

GRADUATING CLASS CABINET

CLASS OF 2010 SENIORS

PRESIDENT: Courtney Arrington

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS: Jessica Pulido and Amanda
Tachis

CLASS OF 2011 JUNIORS

PRESIDENT: Evan Wiener

VICE PRESIDENT: Michael Culhane

FRESHMAN SUPPORT CABINET

PRESIDENT: Pablo Ortiz

VICE PRESIDENT: Ashley Roberts

FRESHMAN SUPPORT COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Caroline Edwards

Big Bear Brothers – Mackenzie Lanigan

Freshman Transition – Katherine Liang

Connection and Involvement – Paige Solomon

SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT TRUSTEE

Our school board has four major roles. These are “establishing a vision, maintaining an effective and efficient structure, ensuring accountability, and providing community leadership as advocates for children, the school district, and public schools. Authority for these roles is granted to the board as a whole, not each member individually.” (SUHSD website)

Each year, students from each of the four high schools complete applications and interviews with members of the Student Advisory Council in the hope of being named as the SUHSD Student Trustee. The student fulfills a one-year term during which the student trustee serves as the voice of the students of Sequoia Union High School District.

We are proud and honored to announce that M-A’s Evan Wiener will serve as next year’s Sequoia Union High School District Student Trustee.

Outreach Reflects on a Successful Year of Service

By Julia Ransobhoff, Outreach President

The Outreach Service Club had an exciting year of accomplishments. With new faculty advisors Michele Breen and Elizabeth Bannan, the year kicked off with members building houses with **Habitat for Humanity** in Redwood City. Other Outreachers sold smoothies to continue our sponsorship of individuals through **KIVA**, the online micro-lending organization.

The Holiday Gift Project culminated in December when Outreach members and student groups, along with teachers, faculty, and staff, were able to adopt 39 Menlo-Atherton families to help make their holiday wishes come true. The families’ gifts were delivered with the help of Leadership’s Canned Food Drive. It was truly an amazing team effort to help brighten the holidays of a number of our M-A families.

On Friday, January 23rd, Outreach kicked off the second semester by continuing the tradition of **Project Backpack**. Twenty-three students in seven cars delivered over 200 backpacks filled with toiletries and warm clothes to homeless people in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. Students planned and collected supplies for months and delivered each bag with a smile and a bag of homemade cookies. Following the delivery, Outreach received a heartfelt note from someone who received a backpack. He wrote, “We encourage all high schools in the Bay Area to follow Menlo-Atherton High’s example of unconditional compassion, kindness, and understanding without judgment...”

Throughout the school year, Outreach members have supported many events and charities. Members have built beading kits for the **Alexandra Chiles Foundation**. The Foundation delivers the kits to ill children at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital. Outreach also hosted Games for Good, a night of cards and games to support relief efforts for **Darfur**. In addition, Outreach organized school-wide programs that raised hundreds of dollars to support charities like **The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society** and **Muscular Dystrophy**.

Outreach would like to thank everyone who has supported our efforts this year. A special thanks to parent Lisa Major who helped coordinate our major projects and brightened our weekly meetings throughout the entire school year. We would have not made it without support. Thank you also to all the parent volunteers, drivers, and donors. We value your support and hope you will stay tuned for more exciting teamwork and service this fall!

Freshman Transition and 6th Period Leadership

A Message to New Bears: The Class of 2013

M-A PTA Funds Programs

Plans are already well underway to welcome next year's new M-A Bears, the Class of 2013. The Freshman Transition student leaders and members of the Freshman Support Leadership class have been working hard to ensure that incoming class of 2013 and their families feel welcomed and supported throughout their first year of high school at Menlo-Atherton.

The Freshman Transition program at M-A presents a unique opportunity for 9th grade students to work with upperclassmen leaders and assimilate into the high school environment. Throughout the first semester, student leaders visit classrooms to work with our youngest Bears, promoting communication, offering advice, and answering questions. Experience has shown that peer leadership is the most effective way to create a school environment in which all students feel accepted and included.

The Freshman Transition Leadership class, composed of 30 student leaders dedicated to supporting new students, plans events that serve our new Bears and their families. This year we will hold campus tours and small group activities/orientation with leaders for incoming students during Arena check-in, which is August 12 for freshmen.

The Freshman Family Welcome Dinner is slated for September 25 and is an exciting potluck that has been widely attended and enjoyed in the past. The Leadership class also holds a tutoring center for our freshman called "Food for Thought" every Tuesday in Ms. Andres's classroom, G-12. There are snacks and drinks provided, but most importantly it is a positive atmosphere where juniors and seniors model good study habits and can assist younger students with their homework.

Along with the Freshman Transition program, the M-A PTA supports Challenge Day for every freshman student. This program is a one-day workshop that promotes compassion, communication, and community building within a school. Ninth graders and Challenge Day volunteers work together to build alliances and acceptance among students of diverse racial and cultural backgrounds. The success of this program has increased student bonding, improved communication, and encouraged classroom participation.

In recent years, the M-A PTA has recognized the importance of embracing freshman students and their families. The Freshman Transition program, the Freshman Transition Leadership Class and Challenge Day are all programs that have had a tremendous positive impact on the social and academic environment at M-A. Menlo-Atherton is committed to building alliances and community spirit among its students and families. In appreciation, this year's PTA has generously stepped up to fund the Freshman Transition program and Challenge Day for next year. Funding will include a grant of \$5,000 for Freshman Transition/6th Period Leadership and \$15,000 to underwrite Challenge Day for every incoming freshman on November 2 & 3.

Welcome to M-A!

We are excited for our new Bears to arrive at school. See you all at Arena Check-in and the Arena Check-In /Freshman Tours on August 12, 2009!

Andy Stuart, Freshman Transition/6th Period Leadership



M-A Bears 5th Annual Golf Classic Tournament

Coyote Creek Golf Course, San Jose.

Saturday, September 12, 2009, 9:00 am shotgun start

Please join us for the 5th Annual M-A Boys Golf Classic Tournament hosted at Coyote Creek Golf Course!

BBQ lunch, raffle drawing, and prizes following the tournament on the patio.

All proceeds are tax deductible and support the M-A Boys Golf Team for the entire season.

Entry fees: \$195 per player, includes fees, cart, prizes, range balls, water and BBQ lunch.

Early Bird Pricing (before August 13, 2009): \$170 per player

Mail or email entries to: Jackie Anderson, 755 Sylvan Way, Emerald Hills, CA 94062, jackie_anderson99@yahoo.com

Enter as a single, twosome, threesome, or foursome. Include your Index with your entries. Don't have a handicap? Make your best guess. Can't guess? Call or email me. We will find a great group for you to golf with. This is all about having a great time and supporting the team for another year.

Questions? Want to Volunteer? Want to Donate? Want your family name or company name on a sponsor sign?

Contact Tournament Director Jackie Anderson at jackie_anderson99@yahoo.com or 650-544-6510.

Attention all M-A Freshman Families!

Come to the 6th Annual FRESHMAN FAMILY WELCOME

September 25, 2009

The M-A Administration, Freshman Transition Team, Leadership, and the PTA are teaming up for the 6th annual event for M-A. Designed to build a familial atmosphere for our newest Bears and their families, please join us for this fun evening! After the meal, your kids can head off to the Back-to School Dance starting at 7:00 pm, the same night, on our beautiful M-A Green.

When: Friday September 25, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Where: On the Girl's Soccer Field

What: Potluck Dinner (You know the food will be good, since you are cooking it!)

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Please bring (serves 6-8 people)</u>
A-H	entrée
I-Sh	salad
Si-Z	dessert

Drinks will be on sale for \$1.00 each. Proceeds to benefit the Freshman Leadership Class, who CREATE ALL M-A EVENTS for 9th Grade students! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to meet new friends! Questions? Feel free to contact Rose Mein, Freshman Family Welcome chair at rwmmp@aol.com

Atencion a todas las familia de estudiantes

Freshman de M-A Estan todos cordialmente invitados a la:

BIENVENIDA FAMILIAR

La Asociacion de Transicion de los Freshman, el Liderato y et PTA estan colaborando con este evento emocionante para M-A. Unase a nosotros en esta velada divertida e informativa ya que queremos que todos ustedes se sientan bienvenidos e integrados a vuestra comunidad.

Fecha: Viernes 25 Septiembre, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Lugar: acerca a la biblioteca

Evento: Cena estilo potluck (la comida sera sabrosa pues usted prepara algo!)

Apellido	Favor de traer suficiente papr 6-8 personas
A-H	plato principal
I-Sh	ensalada
Si-Z	postre

Las bebidas estarán en venta por \$1.00 y los recursos beneficiaran la clase de Freshmen Leadership, quienes hacen los eventos para los estudiantes del noveno grado.

Si tiene preguntas, por favor llamen a Rose Mein, Freshman Family Welcome chair a rwmmp@aol.com

ATTENTION SENIORS (and those watching closely over them!)

As Graduation 2009 nears, everyone wants to know the what, when, and where for all of M-A's wonderful upcoming senior events. Here is a one pager that will answer your questions or give you the person to contact in order to have your questions answered.

- Friday, May 29** **SENIOR WEEK TICKETS – Final Day!!**
2 pm The Green
CLEARANCE SLIPS DUE – Final Day!!
2 pm AVP Office
You *will not walk* the stage at graduation if you do not complete a senior clearance slip!!!
SENIOR FAREWELL DRESS REHEARSAL
3 pm New Gym
- Monday, June 1** **FINAL DAY OF CLASSES FOR SENIORS**
SENIOR FAREWELL New Gym
Seniors Report at **6 pm to Ayers Gym**
Program **7 pm (open to all!)**
Reception **Immediately following program**
- Tuesday, June 2** **SENIOR PICNIC**
8:00 am – 2:00 pm Huddart Park
SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT
7:00 pm New Gym
If you are to be receiving an award, you will be notified.
- Wednesday, June 3** **SENIOR BREAKFAST**
9:00 am Gym Patio
GRADUATION REHEARSAL
10:15 am Coach Parks Field
You *must* attend if you want to participate in the actual ceremony on Thursday!
- Thursday, June 4** **GRADUATION DAY!!!!**
Seniors Report and Sign In
3:00 pm Ayers Gym
Ceremony
4:00 pm Coach Parks Field
Diplomas
Pick them up in Main Hall after the ceremony
GRAD NIGHT PARTY
Students Check In
9:30 pm New Gym
Transportation
All students will be transported via charter bus!
Return to M-A
5:00 am New Gym

Questions?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Regarding Class of '09 items, caps & gowns, etc. | Contact Jostens www.SFGrad.com (MAHS Rep—Mike Eldred) |
| Regarding Academic credits and graduation status | Contact Guidance Office 322-5311 x5121 |
| Regarding Senior Activities | Contact Kelly Todd 322-5311 x5250 or preferably ktodd@seq.org |
| Regarding Handicapped parking and seating | Contact Sandy Nelson 322-5311 x5131 or snelson@seq.org |
| Regarding Administrative intervention | Contact Judy Duran 322-5311 x5130 or jduran@seq.org |
| Regarding Senior All-Nighter | Parent Chair – Debbie Verity at gradnight2009@mabearspta.org or 650-321-3069 |
| Regarding Tickets | Contact Julie Gaston at gradnighttickets@mabearspta.org or 650-324-2422 |
| Regarding Scholarship requests | Contact Charlene Margot at gradnightscholarships@mabearspta.org or 650-868-0590
or see Alice Kleeman in the M-A Career Center or Karina Escobar-Weaver in the Guidance Office |

SENIORS: 2009 GRAD NIGHT PARTY

DON'T MISS THIS LAST "ENCHANTED EVENING" WITH YOUR M-A FRIENDS!

The 2009 Senior Grad Night party "One Enchanted Evening" is only a few days away! We've had record sign-ups for the party and are expecting at least 300 grads! If you haven't ordered your tickets yet, contact Julie Gaston to see if there are any seats left on the buses – gradnighttickets@mabearspta.org or 324-2422.

If you're going to be one of the many grads at the party, please note:

- **Check in is at the New Gym at 9:30 pm on June 4th.**
- **You will return to M-A on June 5th about 5:15 am.**
- **There is no guarantee of secure parking at M-A**, so please be dropped off and picked up. If you do park at M-A, the B-lot will be open.
- **Wear nice but casual attire**, something that would be appropriate for a nice dinner. Girls, slacks and flats are fine, but dress up more if you want!
- **Remember that this is a 'Safe and Sober' event.** Alcohol/cigarette/drug use is strictly prohibited. NOTE: If a student arrives under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the student will NOT be allowed to attend the event.
- **No need to bring anything except:**
 - An ID – student ID, driver's license, or state ID card
 - Your confirmation letter
 - A jacket or sweater
- **We ask that you DON'T BRING**, and we are not responsible for:
 - Money – everything is paid for!
 - iPods – we have music!
 - Cell phones – everyone you want to talk to will be there!
 - Yearbook – you really don't want to carry it all night!
- **You MUST NOT BRING:**
 - Any food or drink
 - Alcohol/cigarettes/drugs – for the sake of your fellow graduates, please respect that this is a 'Safe and Sober' event. If you are found to have any of these or to be under the influence at the party, you will not be allowed to remain at the party and *you may jeopardize the party for all.*

Have any questions about Grad Night? Contact Debbie Verity at gradnight2009@mabearspta.org or 321-3069.

And Congratulations, Class of 2009!

SPECIAL THANKS TO GRAD NIGHT 2009 COMMITTEE, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS!

It turns out that planning Grad Night is a lot of work, but I was privileged to work with some amazing parents who made my job easy! I want to give special thanks to the Grad Night 2009 Committee, who devoted many, many hours over the last 14 months to plan a safe, sober, and fun party for our graduating seniors:

- Charlene Margot – venue, entertainment, outreach and scholarships
- Stacia Weisenfluh – venue, entertainment and transportation
- Debbie Hall – fundraising
- Julie Gaston – ticket sales and publicity
- Alice Hom – check-in
- Gretchen Flanagan – food

I'd like to express my gratitude to Patrice Hightower of Hightower Designs who did the graphic design for the posters and banners, Linda Forniciari who helped create them, Paul McCreight for planning and purchasing the prizes, Matthew Zito for his guidance, Kelly Todd for her support, Alice Kleeman and Karina Escobar-Weaver for helping the students with scholarship requests, and Brien Oliver and his staff for

making sure the New Gym is ready on graduation night.

Thanks also to the following M-A parents who helped the committee: Rosalie Cornew, Glenda Leon, Karen Black, Robin Holland, Leslie Murveit, Trina Pierce, Marcia Makino, and the 20 parents who volunteered to help with check-in on the last day of school!

A very special thank you is given to the 11 parents and community members who have volunteered to chaperone the all-night party: M-A parents Maggie Betsock, Norman Abt, Sossi Salih, John McMurtry, Rosalie Cornew, Trina Pierce, and Lisa Major, and Menlo Park Presbyterian Church Youth Ministers Susie Benton, James Benton, Beto Diaz, and Scott Shek.

And I'd be remiss not to acknowledge the many parents who donated money so that we could keep the cost low and offer scholarships. Because of their generosity, about 300 graduates (over 70% of the graduating class) are expected to attend Grad Night with about 70 full and partial scholarships granted, truly making this "One Enchanted Evening" that every grad could attend!

Debbie Verity, Grad Night 2009 Chair

Menlo-Atherton High School

2009-2010



MANDATORY "ARENA CHECK-IN"

A parent or guardian must accompany students for signatures, fees, permission slips, and volunteer sign-ups.

Wednesday, August 12, 2009 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm Freshmen and Seniors		Thursday, August 13, 2009 8:00 am – 12:30 pm (noon) Sophomores and Juniors	
<u>Time</u>	<u>If your last name begins with:</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>If your last name begins with:</u>
1:00 pm	A, J, N	8:00 am	A, J, N
1:30 pm	B, W	8:30 am	B, W
2:00 pm	E, G, T	9:00 am	E, G, T
2:30 pm	K, M, U	9:30 am	K, M, U
3:00 pm	C, O, Y	10:00 am	C, O, Y
3:30 pm	F, R, Z	10:30 am	F, R, Z
4:00 pm	H, Q, S	11:00 am	H, Q, S
4:30 pm	D, L, X	11:30 am	D, L, X
5:00 pm	I, P, V	12:00 pm	I, P, V
DOORS WILL CLOSE AT 5:30 pm		DOORS WILL CLOSE AT 12:30 pm	

NEW THIS YEAR!

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION WILL BE RIGHT AFTER YOU COMPLETE ARENA CHECK-IN

Freshmen Only: On Wednesday, August 12, 2009, go to Arena Check-In at your assigned times. After you complete Arena Check-In, go to the Soccer Field for Freshman Orientation.

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

will be the First Day of School

Report to New Gym @ 7:00 am to pick-up your Class Schedule

Trivocis Calendar – June 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Finals schedule (non-seniors): Regular day ends at 12:35 pm 7 th period finals: 1:15-3:15 pm Final day of classes for seniors: Senior Farewell: 7 pm, New Gym (seniors arrive at 6 pm), Open to all	2 Finals schedule (non-seniors): 1 st & 2 nd period finals: 8:00 am-12:15 pm Senior Picnic: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm, Huddart Park Senior Awards Night: 7:00 pm, New Gym	3 Finals schedule (non-seniors): 3 rd & 4 th period finals: 8:00 am-12:15 pm Senior Breakfast: 9:00 am, Gym Patio Senior Graduation Rehearsal: 10:15 am, Coach Parks Field (mandatory attendance)	4 Last Day of School Finals schedule (non-seniors): 5 th & 6 th period finals 8:00 am-12:15 pm Graduation Ceremony, Class of 2009: 4:00 pm, Coach Parks Field (seniors report at 3 pm to Ayers Gym) Grad Night for Class of 2009: 9:30 pm check-in, New Gym,	5 Grad Night Party ends, 5:15 am, New Gym	6 SAT Subject Tests, 8:00 am www.collegeboard.com
8	9	10	11	12	13 ACT Test, 8:00 am www.actstudent.org M-A Jazz Band at the Nativity Carnival, 4:00-5:30 pm
15 Summer school session #1 begins through 7/2	16	17	18	19 Last day to request final transcripts from the Guidance Office	20
22	23	24	25	26 Last day to request support from the Guidance office until 8/3/09	27
29	30	July 1	2 Summer school session #1 ends	3	4

Future Events

7/7-7/24 – Summer school session #2

8/3 – Guidance office reopens; Approved summer school transcripts due to Guidance office

8/12 – Arena Check-in, 9th & 12 grades, 1:00 - 5:30 pm, Freshman orientation immediately following

8/13 – Arena Check-in, 10th and 11th grades, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

8/14 – First day of Fall Sports practices

8/17 – Sept Trivocis article deadline

8/19 – First day of school, 7:00 am class schedule distribution

The most current information about M-A events is available on the M-A PTA website: www.mabearspta.org
Submit calendar entries by email to: trivociscalendar@mabearspta.org

Menlo-Atherton High School PTA
PTA, 17th Dist. CA.
Congress of Parents & Teachers
555 Middlefield Rd.
Atherton, CA 94027

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Production Editor: Gale Lane
Calendar Editor: Kathleen Balestra
Mailing: Debbie Hall, Jane Little

Next submission deadline – [August 17, 2009](#)
Next mailing date – [August 27, 2009](#)
Send article submissions to: trivocis@mabearspta.org
Send calendar entries to: trivociscalendar@mabearspta.org

This issue was mailed and a PDF version posted online at www.mabearspta.org on May 28, 2009

One issue to each Menlo-Atherton High School family.
For divorced parents, one to each household.

Calling all M-A Parents!

It's time to begin planning for the Fall of 2009. The M-A Administration needs volunteers to help staff Arena Check-In and Schedule Distribution, which helps get our school year off to a good start. This is an easy way to get involved and meet other parents. These events take place on campus, and training is provided on the spot, so no experience is necessary. The (5) shifts we need help with are listed below:

Arena Check-In Seniors & Freshmen Wednesday, August 12th

- (1) 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
- (2) 3:00 pm - 6:15 pm

Arena Check-In Juniors & Sophomores Thursday, August 13th

- (3) 7:30 am - 10:30 am
- (4) 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Schedule Distribution On the First Day of Classes Wednesday, August 19th

- (5) 6:50 am - 8:30 am

If you can help, please contact Lee Ann Yasukawa at lyasukawa@yahoo.com.

We appreciate your support.

Gloria Principe & Lee Ann Yasukawa
M-A Admin. Support Co-Chairs

Senior Awards Night: Honoring Outstanding Achievements

*By Alice Hom, Kathy Wright, and Leslie Reblander,
Awards Night Co-Chairs*

The annual M-A Senior Awards Night will be held on Tuesday, June 2, at 7:00 pm in the New Gym. During this inspirational evening, sponsored by M-A PTA, many hard-working and talented seniors (and a smaller number of juniors) are honored for outstanding academic and extracurricular performance and service to the school and community. Some of the awards will be a surprise, while many will be recognition for awards already received. Recognition is given for a wide variety of scholarships, prizes, and commendations awarded to M-A students by school and community groups. Last year, more than 200 individuals were recognized.

Invitations will be mailed to families of students who will be receiving recognition. Awards to junior students will be presented early in the program, followed by senior awards. Refreshments will be served.

Congratulations to the deserving recipients!

Next Year's Senior Fashion Show will Shift into Spring!

The Class of 2010 Fashion Show will be held in February 2010,
in the new Performing Arts Center
Watch for more information next year!