

REDWOOD POST

Volume 8, Issue 5

February 2008

CH-CH-CHANGES!

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www.redwood.org
www.redwoodptsa.org

FROM THE DESK OF

Nancy Neu Principal

Traditionally, the New Year brings change to most people and the same is true for us. We have several changes to tell you about...

Alejandra Wilkerson, one of our esteemed Spanish teachers, ushered in the New Year with a baby boy. Both mom and baby are doing well. Taking her place for the remainder of the school year will be Stacey Goodwin. Stacey previously taught Spanish at Ygnacio Valley High School. She will be here for the remainder of the school year.

Some other changes include our office staff as well. Promoted to Administrative Assistant for the Principal is Sam Miller. Sam was previously the secretary for Assistant Principal LaSandra White, and held the position of A.P. secretary for seven years. Peggy Bogason, the former Administrative Assistant for the Principal, is now the Executive Assistant to the District Superintendent, Bob Ferguson. We are also currently filling the positions for Attendance Clerk and A.P. secretary.

As we begin the spring semester, we want to

be able to insure that students stay focused and are well prepared. I'm asking all of you to assist us in helping students maintain the right attitude with respect to achievement. As surely as you are your child's first and most influential teacher, your child's ideas about education and its significance begin with you. You must be a living example of what you expect your children to honor and emulate. Moreover, you bear a responsibility to participate actively in your child's education. Encourage diligent study and discourage satisfaction with mediocrity and the attitude that says "Let it slide;" monitor your child's study habits; nurture your child's curiosity, creativity, and confidence; and be an active participant in the work of the schools. Finally, help your children understand that excellence in education cannot be achieved without intellectual and moral integrity coupled with hard work and commitment. Children look to their parents and teachers as models of such virtues.

The staff at Redwood High School is committed to providing a topnotch education for your children. I am excited about the spring semester and feel confident that it will be successful and rewarding for all our students, families, and staff. I look forward to working together as a team to support your child's learning. ■

Junior Counseling Conferences Info, See Page 16

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Upcoming PTSA Meetings and Speakers

Thursdays, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Feb. 14

Summer Programs and Opportunities for Teens. Local expert Judy Wiesen offers tips on how to fill your child's summer with productive, educational, and fun experiences!

March 6

Teens and the Law features officers from Twin Cities Police Department, Marin County Special Task Force on Drugs, and San Rafael Police Chief, Matt Odetto, who will talk about the Social Host Ordinance.

Also of Note –

Saturday, Feb. 9, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Parent University, sponsored by the Marin County Health and Ed. Depts. 2008 Theme: *Negotiating your Child through the Risky Years of Adolescence.*

FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT

Dear Redwood Families,

This year, **Parent University XII** will be held here at Redwood on **Saturday, February 9**, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme is **Risky Business**. This free event is designed to help parents understand, prepare for, and respond to the risky behavior of teens. (Please see page 4.)

Also mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 29**, the date of **Redwood Rocks!**, PTSA's annual parent party and fundraiser. All proceeds of this event will go to help pay for the new lunch plaza at Redwood. Please join us for a fun time and a good cause; our students deserve a nice outdoor place to eat on the campus. The plaza is in the design phase; we hope to have it built by the time of this year's graduation. PTSA will continue to sell legacy bricks in support of the plaza before, during, and after the event. Go to www.redwoodptsa.org to download a donation form, or pick one up in the Attendance Office.

This semester, PTSA is sponsoring a substance abuse awareness program for freshmen and sophomores which aims to change social norms about binge drinking and marijuana smoking. PTSA is also helping the school put on **Every 15 Minutes**, a program for juniors and seniors, which involves a simulated fatal drunk driving accident and its aftermath. In connection with the latter, we still need a few parents to help organize meals for the participants. Contact me at president@redwoodptsa.org or 924-4628 if you want to help!

Barbara Solomon

Redwood PTSA President ■

Attention All Parents!

Look for your invitation to the Phantom Tea Party (a non-event) and help support our seniors with your donations to **Safe and Sober Grad Night 2008**.

We would also like to encourage each Redwood family to contribute one \$25 (or more) teen-friendly prize. Contact Liz Krakow, liz@roughhouse.com, 927-3127, for a business solicitation packet. See page 17 for more information on Grad Night.



Mark your calendar:

**SATURDAY
MARCH 29, 2008**

Join us for the
Party of the Year!



THE HEART OF ROCK N' ROLL IS STILL BEATIN'!

- Rock Out to the music of "The Ripple Effect" (back by popular demand)
 - Great Food and Drink all night long
 - Dancin', Costume Contest and a "Sick" Raffle!
- A great way to support your school and have a Rockin' good time...

All Rockers welcome:

Singles, Couples, Alumni, Staff, our whole Community... and book groups!

LET'S FINISH THE JOB!

We're almost there! Ground Breaking will be this Spring for our Amazing new LUNCH PLAZA... a place for our kids to lunch and connect with each other. This will be the HEART of Our Redwood Campus!

We are paving the plaza with Legacy Bricks so students and alumni can permanently engrave their names at Redwood. We continue to sell the bricks for \$100 and up, so NOW'S the time to secure one with your student's name on it and leave a lasting legacy for your kids!

COME TO THE AID OF YOUR PARTY!

Here's what we need to make this the best party ever:

Donations:

- Vacation Homes • Airline frequent flyer miles
- Gift Certificates (here's an opportunity to re-gift those extra Holiday gifts)
- Host a Theme Party (Margarita Madness, Tailgate Parties, Cooking Parties, Beach BBQs, etc!)

Volunteer your time:

We'll need help setting up and running this too-cool party. Step up and pitch in. You'll have a great time.

If you have donations or would like to join in the fun,

contact Laura Edwards (461-1606 or ljcald821@aol.com) or Eladia Laines (927-1922 or emlaines@comcast.net)

PTSA PARENT ED SPEAKER

Understanding Teenagers

By Jeannie Perry

The PTSA has hosted two fruitful meetings with local therapist Brenda Bercun on understanding our teenage girls and boys. Advocating understanding, patience, boundaries, and love, Brenda filled us with insights on the temporal state called “teenager.”

Teens undergo the last of three major brain development stages during puberty. Hormones ignite the sex specific brain circuits to fire. In females, the hormones estrogen and progesterone increase and create a heightened pleasure in social interactions. Given that adult females speak three times as many words as adult men, this trait in teen girls could be viewed as training for womanhood.

Testosterone in males flattens their sensitivity to stress, creating a desire for thrill seeking behavior. Logical thinking comes from the cerebral cortex, which develops in late adolescence. This may explain some of the illogical behavior of teens, particularly boys, who develop this part of the brain late. Plus they don't have impulse control. Patience may come with the understanding that some of their behavior is a result of changing physical conditions – new hormones surging in their bodies.

How do we live with these ever-changing, thrill seeking, social people? Brenda suggests that the family have a clear “code of ethics.” Teens look to parents to teach healthy coping mechanisms– helping them identify and manage moodiness, anger, loneliness, anxiety, and helping them express their feelings. Remember to be a good listener.

It is important for us as parents to ask ourselves: What do we want for our daughters? What kind of women do we want them to be? What kind of men do we want our sons to be? Do we support the behaviors that express the kind of person we hope they will be? Do we encourage them to be loyal, trustworthy, kind, understanding, and independent people? Brenda reminded us of the importance of letting them pull away from us, and not the other way around. Just like when they were toddlers, they need clear boundaries and loving parents.

Books on Girls: *Fab Friends and Best Buds* by Erika V. Shearin Karres; *Girls Speak Out* by Andrea Johnston.

Books on Boys: *The Courage to Raise Good Men* by Olga Silverstein and Beth Rashbaum; *Raising a Son* by Don and Jeanne Elium ■

Feb 9: Parent University XII at Redwood

The 12th Annual Parent University, a FREE conference for parents of middle and high school students, will be held on Saturday, February 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The keynote presentation, *Risky Business – Parenting Middle & High School Students Through The Risky Years*, will be given by Lynn Ponton, M.D., author of *The Romance of Risk* and *Sex Lives of Teenagers*.

Dr. Ponton's presentation will be followed by free workshops on topics such as alcohol and drug use among teens, teen internet use, anger and stress management, raising boys, navigating the teen scene, parent/teen communication, talking to your teen about S-E-X, cyber safety, and many more. All workshops are designed to help parents of teens meet today's challenges and will be led by

experts who have extensive experience and success with teens. Parents will have the opportunity to attend two workshops during the half-day conference. A complete listing of workshops will be posted on www.healthyteensmarin.org.

No pre-registration is required! Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with workshops running until 1 p.m. Free on-site childcare will also be provided. Additionally, resource material for teens, parents, and families will be available and Book Passage of Corte Madera will be on hand selling books on parenting topics.

Parent University is sponsored by Healthy Teens Marin, www.healthyteensmarin.org. For more information, contact Lisa Schwartz at the Marin County Office of Education, 499-5877. ■

RHSF Annual Campaign – Can We Reach \$700,000

Our fall Annual Campaign drive was a big success! We ended the year 2007 with almost \$500,000 and 35% of families participating. That would have equaled our full year of donations two years ago! This year, we've set our sights at \$700,000 in order to fund the Lunch Plaza and fill needs currently not met in the District budget. With six months left, there is still time for those families who haven't yet contributed to help us reach our goal. By now you've

probably read about the impending State cuts to education. Our district will lose \$400,000 in State revenues and the Foundation will be called upon to fill some of those needs at Redwood. Your contribution can help us keep all of the programs and materials funded this year.



Have You Donated Yet?

Although we are ahead of last year, we are still short of our \$700,000 goal. So if you haven't given yet, we need your contribution! Mail back the enclosed card in the addressed envelope that came with your RHSF brochure. If you no longer have the brochure and remit card/envelope, don't worry – there are additional copies in the school office and in our new Redwood office – room 177A or go online at www.redwoodhsfoundation.com where you can either download the form and use your own envelope or pay via credit

card on our secure site. And for those of you who will be donating with stock, please contact our Treasurer, Charlie Lambert, at lambertetal@covad.net to be sure we know which stock is yours. If you have any questions about your donation, call Veronica Tunucci in the Foundation office at 924-6793 or via email at redwoodhsf@hotmail.com. Give to RHSF Today!

– Sara McGhie, Redwood Foundation President ■

Thank You...

Foundation donations received as of January 11, 2008

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Schedule Planning for 08–09

Counselors will be distributing Schedule Request sheets for the 2008-2009 academic year in March. The sheets will be distributed in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade classes and will be due back a week later (date will be given to students when forms are distributed). We hope that students and parents will work together to plan course selections very carefully – so that students may meet the requirements both for graduation and their post high school plans. Careful planning is essential. **A parent signature is required on the request sheet.** Counselors will bring reference copies of the Instructional Guide to the classes with them and the Guide is available online through the Redwood Website, redwood.org, listed under “Publications.” The Instructional Guide contains descriptions of all courses available at Redwood High School.

Some things to keep in mind when reviewing planned courses:

1. Math, Science and World Language teachers will be advising their students of the most appropriate courses to enroll in. REMEMBER, these recommendations are tentative, being made early in the semester and may be revised at the end of the semes-



- ter depending on student performance.
2. Has Outcome #3 Technology been met? Students are required to meet this Outcome by the end of tenth grade or they will be placed in Introduction to Computers in their junior year in order to meet this important requirement. Students who will be in the tenth grade or eleventh grade who have not met the Outcome need to sign up for the course for next year or in Summer School or take the Challenge Exam on one of the remaining test dates: February 15, March 21, April 25, or May 22.

(Note: Before registering for the Computer Proficiency Challenge Exam you must take sample tests, which must be attached to your registration application. Go to: <http://www.tamdistrict.org/instr/assessment/computers/index.htm>)

3. Students interested in taking Honors and Advanced Placement courses need to be especially mindful of requirements and deadlines. Information about prerequisites and procedure will be

Counseling News, cont.

available. Teachers, counselors, The Post, and the daily TWIG are all sources of information about these classes.

4. Although a D in a course required for graduation earns high school credit, that same course will not be acceptable for college if it is an entrance requirement. For example, a D in a required English class should be repeated if the student wants to remain fully eligible for a four-year college. Summer School is often the simplest way to repeat courses; please contact your counselor for further information.
5. Does your student have any F semester grades in subjects required for graduation? Summer School is usually the easiest way to make up required courses, but if plans do not allow that, then it is important to enroll in the repeat classes during the school year.

Please consult your student's counselor if you have questions specific to your student's scheduling needs.

It is vital that students return their scheduling request sheets when they are due. Our school course schedule is based on the selections that students make, and courses may be dropped if insufficient numbers of students are registered. In addition, our school staffing is dependent on our course offerings so it is essential that we receive schedule requests from all students. Missing or late schedule requests jeopardize the existence of some electives and can limit student choices substantially. Counselors will create schedules for

students who fail to turn in their own requests and changes may not be possible. **We want everyone to have as much choice as possible, so make sure the schedule request sheet gets turned in on time!**

SOPHOMORE COUNSELING

During the week of March 3, counselors will meet with their sophomores during PE class time to go over many important areas including a review of graduation requirements, scheduling information for the Junior year, summer opportunities, community service, and a variety of other topics. Students will each be given a copy of their transcript for review and planning, and a copy of the *Career and College Planning Guide* to share with their parents and keep for reference. This booklet has a wealth of information about jobs, careers, college entrance requirements, and testing.

Reminder: The SOPHOMORE POTLUCK is Tuesday, Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m. in the CEA.

8th GRADE PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Teachers, counselors, and administrators will present information about Redwood to the parents of incoming 8th grade students on Thursday night, March 6, in the gym. Registration for 8th graders is the following Thursday, March 13. Parents of students in Redwood's feeder schools have received a letter giving the dates and times. Other parents of potential ninth graders for fall can call the Counseling Office (945-3626 or 924-6200) for more information. ■

AP Exams in May

This year's Advanced Placement Exams will be administered during the weeks of May 5 and May 12. The cost of each exam is \$84. Students currently enrolled in an Advanced Placement class will receive a letter, exam schedule, and order form for this year's exams. This information will be mailed during the week of February 11.

Orders for the exams will go on sale February 25. Have your

student mail in the order form with a check or drop it off to Desiree Weiss in the Attendance Office. The last date to purchase an exam will be March 14.

We currently have a list of volunteers to help proctor the exams. Should you be interested in joining that group of parents, please email Jean Leutwyler at jleutwyler@tamdistrict.org or call her at 945-3600, ext. 6106. ■

Gearing Up for College

Paula Vantrease

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME/LOCATION
02/06/08	Mock SAT/ACT	1 to 5 p.m. / Kreps Conference Center
02/12/08	Sophomore Pot Luck	5:30 p.m. / CEA
03/02/08	Filing deadline for FAFSA & Cal Grant	FAFSA Online/ Cal Grant Paper
03/18/08	College of Marin Counselor Meeting	11:50 a.m. / College & Career Center
03/22/08	College of Marin Placement Tests	2:30 p.m. / Computer Lab 182
04/17/08	NACAC College Fair	3 to 7 p.m. / Concourse Exhibition Center, SF
04/22/08	WACAC College Fair	9 to 11:30 a.m.; 6 to 8 p.m. Sonoma State University
04/23/08	WACAC College Fair	6 to 8 p.m. / Dominican University
04/26/08	WACAC College Fair	1 to 4:30 p.m. / St. Mary's College, Moraga

SENIORS

College acceptances will begin to arrive soon; please let your counselor know where you've been accepted and stop by the College & Career Center to put your name on the acceptance board. Read all the information sent to you by colleges regarding various deadlines (information verification, housing, notification of attendance, orientations, etc.) The packets of information may seem overwhelming, but take the time to sort through it all to make sure you don't miss a deadline. Also, many colleges notify by email, so be sure to check your email regularly and respond as necessary.

JUNIORS

Mock SAT/ACT – Are your students wondering whether to take the SAT or ACT exam? Come take an **SAT/ACT Combo Practice Test on February 6, 1 to 5 p.m. in Kreps Conference Center.** This Combo test contains representative sections from both the SAT and ACT exams and is designed to help students decide whether to take the SAT, the ACT, or both. Students receive text feedback that compares performance on analogous test sections between the two exams.

Additionally, we will be hosting the **Combo Practice Test Results seminar Wednesday, February 13, 3:15-4:15 p.m. in the College & Career Center.** Parents and students are invited and encouraged to attend. In addition to receiving practice test results, students will learn to score higher on the SAT and ACT using key Kaplan strategies, taking advantage of the test format, and maximizing their efficiency on the exam. Kaplan will cover the format and content of the tests, walk through various question types using key Kaplan strategies, and give students a study plan for success.

The cost is \$10 cash or check payable to Redwood High School. **The test is for juniors only.** Please sign up with Ms. Vantrease in the College Center by February 4.

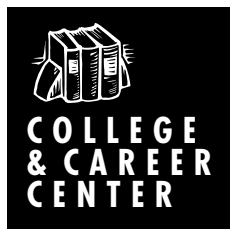
FRESHMEN

In January all freshmen were given an orientation to the College & Career Center through their Social Issues classes. The following areas were discussed: Prep HQ, Community Service (including opportunities and record keeping), job opportunities and work permits, college information (catalogs, videos, testing, admissions, scholarships and financial aid), School to Career internship opportunities and summer programs. Students were also given *Credit for College*, a book put out by Ed Fund which covers various topics such as: Thinking About College, Financial Aid, and Money Management. Please ask your students about all the information we covered in our ninety minutes. If you have any questions about the orientation, please call Paula Vantrease at 945-3641 or email pvantrease@redwood.org.

SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

MARIN EDUCATION FUND – SUMMER APPLICATION 2008
This is a nationally recognized college access program for first

College & Career Center News, cont.



generation college students from low- to moderate- income families. This program ensures that these students, whose parents/guardians did not have the opportunity to graduate from a college in the United States, have the opportunity to pursue their educational dreams. Participants in this program attend a five-day dormitory experience at Dominican University over the summer. The Institute will include: How to choose a college, how to pay for college, how to succeed on the SAT/ACT tests, essay writing, and visiting two colleges. After students attend the program they will be paired with a mentor to help guide them through the process of applying for college and financial aid. The program is open to sophomores who will be a junior and juniors who will be a senior in fall 2008. Interested students may pick up the application for the Summer Application Institute in the College & Career Center or from their counselor. **The deadline to submit this application is March 3.**

REGISTER ON PREP HQ- PREP HEADQUARTERS is a free web-based program being used at Redwood by the counseling department and the College & Career Center to communicate with students and parents. You will be able to access summer programs, scholarships, college search, and college representatives' visits. We would like to encourage all families to register and take advantage

of the information provided to you. It's a simple procedure, just go to www.redwood.org and click on the counseling department link. There you will see the link to Prep HQ, click on "Click Here to Register" in the gray box on the left side of the page. When prompted, enter the student's last name and Redwood ID#. Follow the registration steps and enter student and parent email addresses to receive the latest in school communication. ■

College Admission Test Dates 2008

SAT/Subject TEST DATES

www.collegeboard.com

Test Date	Reg. Deadline	Late Reg. Deadline
Mar. 1	(SAT only) Jan. 29	Feb. 7
May 3	April 1	April 10
June 7	May 6	May 15

ACT TEST DATES

www.act.org

Test Date	Reg. Deadline	Late Reg. Deadline
April 12	Mar. 7	Mar. 21
June 14	May 9	May 23

CALIFORNIA SCHOLARSHIP FEDERATION & REDWOOD HONOR SOCIETY

Spring Membership Drive

Redwood High School sponsors two academic achievement recognition organizations: the California Scholarship Federation and The Redwood Honor Society. Membership to both societies is open to all qualifying students.

The Spring Membership Drive for both is being held *for one week only* beginning Monday, February 11, at 7:30 a.m. and ending Friday, February 15, at 3:30 p.m. No late applications will be accepted (Note: the following week is a holiday week so applications for students who will be off early must be turned in some-

time during this week—no exceptions). Applicants will need to provide a photocopy of their grade report from the previous semester (Fall 2007) for each application. CSF applicants need to return the application with one dollar and RHS applications need to be accompanied by evidence of ten hours of *school* service during the previous semester. Students should pick up CSF applications and return them to Ms. Murk in room 257 and RHS applications to Mr. Kaun in the Library.

Honor Society Membership Drive, cont.

Any questions about these procedures should be directed to Ms. Murk or Mr. Kaun respectively.

This drive is announced daily in the *Twig*, and posters are placed in all school hallways notifying students of the drive deadlines. It is the responsibility of the student to apply during the membership drive.

Important: The counseling office will accept requests for copies of grade reports until 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 14. Please respect this deadline. Students who try to obtain a copy on Friday, February 15, may not have time to turn in the application by the deadline since the counseling office is not always able to immediately make copies.

The **California Scholarship Federation** provides an opportunity for recognition of academic excellence for students carrying four or more subjects (not counting PE and repeated subjects) and who earn a minimum of ten CSF points, seven (7) of which must be in academic subjects. Students may use a maximum of five courses to earn the ten points needed for membership.

A—3 points (4 points for up to two honors or AP courses)

B—1 point (2 points for AP or honors course)

A grade of “D” or “F” in any subject, including PE, disqualifies a student from CSF membership for the semester. The student who is otherwise eligible but who in the judgment of the adviser and principal is an unworthy citizen may be disqualified from semester membership. Our definition of unworthy citizen includes having been suspended during the eligibility period, cheating, and violations of the computer use policy that resulted in administrative action.

The **Redwood Honor Society** is a local organization open to any student who has at least a “B” (3.0) average in the semester for which they are applying. The grade in PE does not count in determining GPA. A grade lower than a “C” (C-, D or F) in any subject, including PE, disqualifies a student from membership for the semester. In determining GPA, AP classes and honors grades are given one extra point each but a C- or below in an AP class is grounds for disqualification.

Besides the grade requirement, RHS also requires that the student contribute ten hours of *school* service in the semester for which they

are applying. Only service which is given directly to the school, including but not limited to extracurricular athletics, drama productions, club meetings and participation, school publications, musical concerts, helping at extracurricular school events, peer tutoring, and student leadership and peer resource hours beyond regular class time, and service to teachers and other school employees outside of regular class time is counted. Students will need to supply adequate evidence of school service hours when filling out their Honor Society application. The student activities secretary can verify students who participated in extracurricular activities, including sports teams and clubs, if lists of participants are maintained for that activity.

For both organizations, semester membership is by application only and shall not be automatic or compulsory. Retroactive membership will not be granted to any student who has failed to submit an application to become a member by the deadline.

Life Membership

Life membership in CSF is achieved by earning membership four of the last six semesters in school, one semester of which must be based on senior grades. Membership privileges will be granted ninth graders; however, ninth grade membership does NOT count toward life membership. At graduation, life members are entitled to wear a gold cord.

Life membership in the RHS is achieved by fulfilling the qualifications for membership for six semesters for students attending Redwood for four years, five semesters for those attending for three years, and four semesters for those attending for two years. One semester’s qualification must be earned in the senior year in the first two instances, two senior semesters for the last. Because RHS is a local organization honor society credits earned at other schools do not apply to life membership. Life members of RHS are entitled to wear a silver cord at graduation.

The Sequoians are the parents who run the honor society programs and they would be happy to have your participation. In June we have a recognition banquet for seniors who have achieved life membership in one or both organizations.

Information about both societies is available on the Redwood website – www.redwood.org. ■

A Closer Look at Visual Arts

By Liz Lauter

New Classroom Opportunities

Beginning this spring '08 semester the Visual Arts are offering motivated art students the opportunity to be peer teachers and studio lab assistants in visual arts classes and receive a letter grade for credit. Signing up to be Teacher's Assistants (T.A.'s) for credit/no credit still is an option, but both students and teachers are especially excited about the possibilities with this new level of support and recognition, called Visual Arts Studio Lab Assistant. Interested students should speak directly with an art teacher for the specific requirements.

We revised Graphic Design I and II, renaming them "Graphic Media I and II" this winter to update and reflect the creative possibilities for communicating images and design in a visual arts classroom/studio. The program emphasizes the use of design as a means to communicate ideas and information. The program includes the use of traditional fine arts based materials, mixed media, and print-making. Computer technology is included in level II.

Art teacher Lauren Bartone is teaching the program this spring and can answer specific questions. Lauren says "Students will be starting out with reviewing the basics of design theory, building on their understanding of the basic tenets of design, (typography, imagery, composition, and color), and the best way to communicate an idea or opinion in visual media. Eventually, when students have built up their skills, they will be testing out their own designs with various printmaking techniques, (screen printing on t-shirts, etc.). The semester ends with a project in which students are asked to "remix" an advertisement that they choose about a controversial or conflicting message. Students subvert the message in the original ad by creating a new design which comments on the issue the student had with the ad. In this project students demonstrate the skills they have learned in the class, visual critique and analysis, visual articulation of a concept, and technical design skills."

New Projects

The Redwood Art Honor Society along with Ceramic students have bitten off a big project for this year: A Food Mosaic to be installed on the walls at the entrance to the CEA. Work is in process during Ceramics classes, office hours, and after school. We will have at least

one weekend work day this semester as well. The design is just delicious. We plan to apply for a Support Fund grant this spring to help with the costs.

The Art Honor Society is also busy painting art onto the unsightly garbage cans around campus. We are doing this as an ongoing project and you can see our progress just by walking around campus.

In the Classrooms

Ceramics students are exploring printing onto clay using a thermal imaging machine purchased by the Parent Support Fund. Susan Maxwell's Photography students collaborated with Ceramics teacher Liz Lauter and printed their photos onto clay making beautiful clay plates and dishes.

Shows and Sales

Did you know that the Fine Art department uses the District Office's Kreps meeting room and the adjacent hallway to display student artwork from all of the high schools in the District? Shows rotate approximately every 5 weeks. In Spring 2008, the following student exhibits will be shown consecutively:

A.P. Drawing and Painting from Redwood, Tam & Drake – Kreps

A.P. 3-D Ceramics/Sculpture from 3 high schools – hallway display cases

Photography from Redwood & Drake (Kreps)

Ceramics, All Levels from 3 high schools – hallway display cases

Redwood Visual Arts Final Show (Kreps)

Ceramics and Sculpture: Final Works from 3 high schools – hallway display cases

And don't miss the annual Fine Art Faculty Art Show at the beginning of each school year in August-September also in Kreps.

The Ceramics students had a beautiful holiday pottery sale at the end of the fall semester in December. Most of our customers were parents of Ceramics students and Redwood faculty. Students this semester asked if we could have another sale in June, as it was a big thrill to have customers, not just grades. Stay tuned for announcements of our sale date for the end of the spring semester.

If you have requests for things for us to make, email

Liz Lauter at llauter@redwood.org. ■

Teacher News

From the Department Chairs

ENGLISH

Freshman teachers are preparing students to take the District Direct Writing Assessment in February.

Our second annual Buck-A-Book used book sale will be held in May. We'll begin collecting used books in homeroom classes beginning in February. Proceeds from the sale benefit the English Department.

Sophomore teachers will begin the process of having students assemble their Core Literacy Portfolios in March. Parents can help by making sure that students deposit ALL evidence of reading, writing, and speaking, from ALL classes, into their English class working folders.

– *Steve Hettleman*

MATH

The American Math Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 12. To prepare, students are working challenging problems with Mrs. Schrick (Rm. 252) at lunch on Thursdays. Some of the students signed up to take the exam would like to meet more frequently, so they will most likely begin to do so. Mrs. Schrick would invite anyone who wants to work on challenging and non-routine problems to join them on Thursdays, and other days stop by to see if anything's going on.

Thank you to the families of: Jonathon and Daniel Kaplan, Teddy Lefkof, Ian Burke, Max Alperin, and Sam Reese for their donations of tissues, batteries, and white board markers.

– *Heather Curtaz*

SCIENCE

If anyone is in the middle of a kitchen remodel, planning a kitchen remodel, and/or replacing a refrigerator and would like to consider donating their old refrigerator to the Science Department I'd love to speak with them. I would be open to discussing such a donation any time this semester.

When the time roles around, early March, science teachers will be promoting our elective program in advance of next year's sign-ups. In part we do this by showing a comprehensive PowerPoint presen-

tation to all students. The information we give to kids in that PowerPoint file will be posted on our department website (just like the 07-08 file which is still online). We tell the kids it's up there so that they and their parents can revisit from home before course sign-ups are due. We are up to 13 electives in the science department...so check us out online!

– *Skip Lovelady*



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The fantastic new Fitness Center located behind the gym was built in large part by donations from the Redwood Foundation. The equipment is industrial grade and equivalent to that found in commercial fitness centers. On behalf of the many students, teachers, and staff who use the new facility, we thank the Redwood Foundation and parents for their generosity. Check it out online at <http://web.mac.com/redwoodpe/iWeb/Site/Fitness%20Center.html>

– *Jennifer Harris* ■

Parent to Parent Connection

Did you know that the University of California has a **GUARANTEED** Junior Admission Agreement with ALL California Community Colleges? Did you know that the curriculum at community colleges is equivalent to Cal's?

For the parents of students with learning challenges, be they mild or significant, the high school years often are a high stress time for the entire family. This is why we hope you will join us on February 13, 2008, for our second meeting of 2008, **Four-Year College Isn't the Only Way: Other Options, Including Two-year Colleges**, featuring Robert Flynn from COM, and Barbara McCune, Drake College & Career Counselor.

Robert Flynn has been an academic counselor at College of Marin for the past 30 years and is also a parent. He has valuable, time tested (and proven) insights to share in helping both parent and student "find their way." Barbara McCune, Drake College and Career Counselor, will speak about alternatives to attending a 4-year college directly out of high school. This evening will provide parents with an opportunity to learn and ask questions about viable and exciting options to further your student's education beyond high school.

As usual, we will open the meeting a half-hour before the program to allow for informal discussion and networking with other parents.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sandra Tanner Mack & Janet Miller

Coordinators, Parent to Parent Connection (p2p)



p2p 2008 MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesdays, 6:30–9 p.m., Kreps; Program at 7 p.m., informal parent meeting time, 6:30–7 p.m.

2/13/08

Four-Year College Isn't the Only Way:

Other options, including two-year college. Robert Flynn from COM & Barbara McCune, Drake College & Career Counselor.

3/12/08

Broadening High School Experience: Some new and nontraditional options including TEAM, Internships, ROP, Drake's Engineering Academy, Outward Bound, Peer Counseling, Pilot Program: Teen Emergency Response Team, Construction Technology class.

4/16/08

Get Me Outta Here! Meeting graduation outcomes and High School Exit Exam Requirements/issues for LD kids

5/14/08

Help! My Kid Forgets Everything and is Disorganized!

Executive functioning problems and how to solve them, with Dr. Barbara Easterlin. Getting ready for a successful high school experience; how to develop a four-year plan, tips for making the transition easier, the summer transition workshop. ■

Junior Conferences

Parents of Juniors: Please contact your student's counselor in the next few weeks to set up your Junior Conference. Conferences typically cover a check of graduation requirements and post high school planning, including a review of the college application and search process, entrance testing, and related topics. Conferences are scheduled during the school day, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. for 45 minutes to an hour. The conferences take place February through May.

Counselors can be reached at the following numbers or email addresses.

Fran Bozdech, 945-3613, fbozdech@redwood.org

Kristina Brown, 945-3615, kbrown@redwood.org

Randel Kelly, 945-3627, rkelly@redwood.org

Katie Paulsen, 945-3614, kpaulsen@redwood.org

Tami Wall, 945-3682, wall@redwood.org ■

Internships for Spring and Summer

Spring Opportunities

Spring Internships will begin on February 25 and go through April 25. Students are required to work a minimum of 6 hours a week after school for the 8-week period. Applications complete with a resume and teacher recommendation are due on February 1.

For students Interested in law or law enforcement, the Sheriff's Department offers a youth academy internship this spring. Students meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. at the Civic Center for 8 weeks. They will learn about criminal law, crime scene investigation, search and rescue, self-defense, and mock trial. Applications are also due February 1.

Other activities for spring include tours of Kaiser and Marin General in March and Teen Community Preparedness Emergency Training (CERT) in April from the Fire department. Dates to be announced.

Summer Opportunities

Internships are a great way to explore a potential career and get work experience. Internships through School to Career are available in a wide variety of fields – healthcare, computers, community groups, business, law, environmental, media, hospitality, and more.



Students usually have more time to focus on their internship than during the school year and often have a richer experience. Some examples of this include being able to see courtroom procedures, going on a full day photo shoot, observing surgical procedures, or following a reporter on interviews. During the summer students are required to

work a minimum of 9 hours a week for the 6-week period as well as attend a once a week ROP Career Management class at the Marin County Office of Education. The summer program runs from June 16-July 25. Applications are due on May 30 and will be available after spring break.

Other School to Career Services

As the School to Career Liaison for Redwood High School, I am available in the College and Career Center on Mondays and Wednesdays. I assist students with internship placement and preparation, finding job shadows, and informational interviewing opportunities. I also help students with resume writing, interviewing skills, and provide opportunities for students to participate in career-related field trips and activities throughout the year.

Nancy Westreich, School to Career Liaison
College & Career Center
Redwood HS 945-3604
nwestreich@tamdistrict.org ■

Safe & Sober Grad Night

Graduation is June 12, 2008. Plans are under way for the Senior Graduation party. This all-night party takes place the night of graduation at Mt. Tam Racquet Club from 9:30 p.m. until 4 a.m. This fantastic party is given by the parents through the PTSA. The purpose is to keep the new graduates safe, sober, off the highways, and together during their first night as graduates. This is a huge undertaking involving the commitment, the energy, and the imagination of a large number of dedicated parents.

We still need Chairs to be in charge of volunteer staffing, set-up, and clean-up. A 2008 Grad Night Newsletter for Parents with details about the event and a mail-in volunteer form has been mailed. If you didn't receive yours or would like to participate, contact the Grad Night Co-Chairs:

Susan Mitchell, 927-7177, soozem@comcast.net
Marlene Foster, 924-8018, foster2073@comcast.net

Please join the Safe and Sober Grad Night Committee today! ■

Make Way for Spring Blooms

Four dedicated Campus Improvement volunteers planted some 400 daffodil bulbs in front of the gym at the January work party. Along with the other 400 planted around the west parking lot in November, everyone should soon enjoy a beautiful spring bloom. Many thanks to Libby Durkee, Everett Austin, Lindy Flemming, and Maija Norstad.

In February, we will start work on the Quad. We need many strapping young men to transport topsoil to prepare the beds for planting, and remove debris from the flower beds. In March, we will return to the Quad to plant wildflowers. Students earn Community and School service hours, and are credited the hours worked by their family members as well. We hope you'll join us.



Ross Friedrich and Matt Foster

Questions?

Contact Lindy Flemming, 924-9739

or Maija Norstad, 924-7067

Redwood Campus Improvement co-chairs

Work Party Schedule

Meeting times: Saturdays,

9 am – Noon

Jan. 12 – Bulb planting;

Feb. 9 – The Quad;

March 15 – The Quad;

April 19 – TBA;

May 10 – The Amphitheater/South Lawn



December Drawing Results

Donning our Santa hats, Ann and I awarded 28 gifts donated by generous Redwood parents at the December Staff Appreciation Drawing. We'd like to thank the following parents for participating: Andrea Hong and Jim Parsons, Monica and Daniel McGue, Anne and Mark Slater, Anne and Erik Gilberg, Alison and James Carbone,

Jody and Mark Dosker, Eladia and Michael Leddy, Tera Sullivan and Jim Horan, Chris and Carey Condy, Elisa and Bradley Cameron, Kiki Goshay, Yardena and Nathan Roth, Susan and George Livingston, Kathleen and Raymond Cummins, Sheryl Hausman

and Jack Maslow, Ann Gordon and Alan Lefkof, Maria del la Parra-Arko and Fred Arko, Diane Green, Monica and Mark Sherman, Debbie and Paul Sagues, Tamara Keith and Michael Fisher, Miriam and Paulo Napolitano, Sara and Austin McGhie, Azar and Shahrokh Sayadi, Jeanne and Peter Tymstra and Kathy and Josh Margolis.



Holiday gifts included tickets to Golden Gate Theatre and Marin Speaker series as well as gift cards from the following: REI, Macy's, Book Passage, Visa, Amex, Amazon.com, Nordstrom, Table Café, Rustic Bakery, Left Bank, Pacific Catch, Il Fornaio, Harmony Restaurant, Cheesecake Factory, and Pacific Catch. Additional donations included a hand-made Buche de Noel and an electric toothbrush!

Please consider contributing to our upcoming monthly drawings on February 7 and March 6. Your gift can be dropped off at Nancy Neu's office in care of her assistant Samantha Miller. Please contact one of us to participate in the February Faculty Gift Drawing.

Susan Livingston

livingston.susan@comcast.net, 461-8570

Ann Gordon

APGordon@aol.com, 789-0726 ■

2007-2008

Redwood High PTSA Membership & Student Directory

ORDER FORM

It's not too late!

**Your dues make a difference –
Please support the PTSA!**

The student directory is a handbook of student/parent addresses and phone numbers, school information and community business advertisers who support Redwood High School. Your PTSA membership supports important programs at Redwood including substance abuse awareness, parent education, staff appreciation and campus improvement.

Student's Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Primary Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Parent's email address: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Please provide your email address and signature so that we may include you in our database for reminders about meetings, parent education nights and events.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (INCLUDES 1 Directory) **\$40.00**

_____ ADDITIONAL DIRECTORIES (x **\$10.00 ea.**) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

Please return this form and payment to:
Redwood High School PTSA Membership
395 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA 94939

**After March 1, 2008, directories will be for sale for
\$15.00 each until they are no longer available, so order soon!

Thank you for your support!

Carolyn Grey, Membership Chair
435-2128 or dgrey@aol.com

Tam District Parent Awareness Series
at
Kreps Conference Center
Tam District Office

Thursday, February 7, 2008

7 – 8:30

Is Your Teen Depressed? Or is it Just Typical Teen Angst?
A forum on adolescent depression

- ❖ Learn to recognize possible signs of depression in your teen.
- ❖ Explore ways to support and talk with your teen
- ❖ What avenues are available for prevention?
- ❖ What about medication?
- ❖ Learn more about teens' developmental needs and deepen your ability to understand and respond to the teens in your life.

Presented by

Dave Talamo, MFT
and
Gavin Front, Drake Senior



Questions? Call Thia Haselton, MFT at Drake: 458-3443 or Carol Eber at 945-3727

Following is the Redwood High School activity calendar.
 Because dates are subject to change, we recommend confirming any important dates with the school in advance.
 The schedule for school dances and assembly schedule days will be published in the *Post* and the *Twig*.
 Visit www.redwood.org/sports for the Spring sports schedule.

February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Spring Sports Begin	5	6 District Dept. Meetings MINIMUM DAY Benchwarmer's Meeting 7 p.m., Rm 112	7 Drama – <i>Lenaea</i> LTH, 7:30 p.m.	8 Campus Tour – 8 a.m. Kreps Drama – <i>Lenaea</i> LTH, 7:30 p.m.	9 ACT Exam Drama – <i>Lenaea</i> LTH, 7:30 p.m.
10	11 Diversity Week Feb 11 – 15	12 Sophomore Potluck 5:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Mtg., Kreps, 7 p.m.	13 Pigskin Mtg. – 7 p.m., Rm 120	14 PTSA Mtg. 8:30 a.m., Kreps Multicultural Assembly – ASSEMBLY SCHED. Multicultural Food Fest – Lunch	15 End of 4th Grading Period	16
17	18 February Break – NO SCHOOL Feb 18 – 22	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Return from Break	26	27	28	29	

CH-CH-CHANGES!!

FEBRUARY 2008

Visit the Redwood High School website at www.redwood.org
and visit the PTSA website at www.redwoodptsa.org

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THE REDWOOD POST

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)

Redwood High School

395 Doherty Drive

Larkspur, CA 94939

Larkspur, CA 94939

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