

# VIKING VOICE



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**Future PTO Meeting Dates**  
February 20th, 2008  
March 19th, 2008  
April 23rd, 2008  
May 14th, 2008

The Viking Voice is no longer printed and sent to students homes. Log on to the Mills website @ [www.millshigh.org](http://www.millshigh.org), Quick Links, Viking Voice.

## Where's the Party, Seniors?

# Grad Night 2008

**GRAD NIGHT** is an **ALL-NIGHT** Graduation Party for the Mills High School *Class of 2008*, scheduled for  
Friday, May 30, 2008 –  
Saturday, May 31, 2008.

**GRAD NIGHT** starts shortly after the graduation ceremony. Check in begins at 8 PM at Mills High School. Grad Night continues until 5 AM on Saturday, May 31, when your student is returned to the Mills Campus.

### It includes:

- Transportation to a *spectacular, safe, sober and secure, SECRET\** site with Unlimited Games, Activities, Entertainment, and Memorabilia
- Dinner, All Night Snacks, AND Light Breakfast
- PRIZES – Everyone's A Winner!
- \* A FREE "**Where's the Party??**" commemorative T-Shirt.
- Timeless Memories

\*Secrecy is maintained to allow us to ensure security and to provide an atmosphere of surprise and excitement!

**Early Bird Special:**  
\$130 (until February 29, 2008, when the cost will increase to \$150.)

**Register your child NOW! Don't let them miss out on their chance to celebrate with their classmates...a once-in-a-lifetime memory in the making!**

For questions about Grad Night, email [mhsgradnight2008@yahoo.com](mailto:mhsgradnight2008@yahoo.com)

## Mills High School Grad Night 2008 Registration Form

Name of Senior Student \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE T-SHIRT INCLUDED** ( circle size): XSmall    Small    Medium    Large    XLarge    XXLarge

I will need special accommodations (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Guardian (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( home / cell ) \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Guardian (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( home / cell ) \_\_\_\_\_

## PTO President's Message:

Hello Mills Parents, Students, and Friends...

The new semester is well under way...

Our first PTO meeting of the year on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and it was well attended with about 65 parents. Wendy Maynard, Friends of the Millbrae Library Co-President gave a brief talk about how parents and students can volunteer at the Millbrae library. Ms. Maynard also encouraged adults to join the Board of the Friends of the Library. The rest of the evening consisted of excellent dialogue between parents, Principal Paul Belzer and Assistant Principal Irma Munoz concerning issues at Mills High.

Principal Belzer explained that the front of Mills on Murchison needs to be kept clear at all times for emergency vehicles and services. He encouraged parents not to use that area as a student drop off, but to use the parking lot along Sequoia. Principal Belzer will discuss with the Millbrae Police Department the possibility of establishing a white zone on Murchison and as well as looking into new dropoff signage for the Sequoia lot.

Principal Belzer discussed budget concerns resulting from Governor Schwarzenegger's announcements of cut-backs in the school system as well as Measure M projects scheduled to be completed during the 2008 summer break. These are new classroom door locks, new skylight covers, air conditioning in the classrooms and new student lockers. Other future Measure M construction will be the completion of the Science Building, the construction of the auto and wood shop, the cafeteria, a technology building, and landscaping.

In February, the SMUHSD board will be discussing and making a decision on redoing the football field, field irrigation and the feasibility of an all purpose track around the football field at Mills High.

Assistant Principal Irma Munoz discussed Core classes and reviewed why Core classes must be taken at Mills. Principal Paul Belzer and Assistant Principal Munoz also discussed the addition of Mandarin as a language elective in the 2008-2009 school year. First priority for signup will be for incoming freshmen and returning sophomores. Specific details will be forthcoming depending upon survey results from the students.

MHS PTO still needs your involvement!! We need to fill PTO positions, start planning for the next school year, and help raise money to enhance the education at Mills. Beginning September 2007, PTO memberships and fund-raising pay for School Loop, facilitating MHS to use budgeted funds for other enhancement needs. Please use this online tool to know how your students are doing and to communicate with the faculty.

We need parents to volunteer at many of the school functions. Upcoming activities include STAR testing Mailing to the students' homes, 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents night in March, Teachers appreciation luncheon on March 21<sup>st</sup>, incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade registration in April, AP testing monitoring in May, and summer mailing in July, and many other volunteer opportunities in-between. If you can volunteer for any of these activities please let the PTO know. Show our students that we care about their education with school involvement.

Our next PTO meeting is Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Mills Faculty lounge. There will be a review of the budget for this year and next year. Vice President Hardit Chaudhary and Treasurer Yan Li will be leading the discussion. We need to look for new officers and discuss the state of the PTO. Go to [Millshigh.org](http://Millshigh.org) and see what's happening at Mills High School. Watch MCTV on Millbrae's Comcast Channel 27 for more Mills News.

GO VIKINGS! Happy New Year and Happy Chinese New Year!

Norman Chin

Mills PTO President

[normancmhs@yahoo.com](mailto:normancmhs@yahoo.com)



## Principal's Message:

Dear Vikings,

I am pleased to announce that Mills High School has received two significant recognitions since the last edition of the *Viking Voice*. In December, Mills was awarded a Silver Medal by *U.S. News and World Report* and was also recognized as one of America's Top Rated Schools in the December edition of *Newsweek Magazine*. *U.S. News and World Report* evaluated over 18,000 schools based on standardized test scores of students in English and mathematics, proficiency rates of all students, including the least advantaged, as well as results from Advanced Placement tests. The Silver Medal was awarded to schools ranked in the top 500 based on the criteria with the top 100 schools receiving a Gold Medal. *Newsweek Magazine*, which ranked Mills at 246, relies solely on Advanced Placement tests to create their list. Although Mills has consistently garnered high marks for student achievement, this is a tremendous tribute to the hard work of our, students, faculty, and school community. Congratulations, Vikings!

On February 5th and 6th, along with all other public high schools in California, Mills proctored the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). The CAHSEE is a graduation requirement testing students in Language Arts and mathematics up to Algebra 1-2. Our students appeared well prepared for the lengthy tests and will receive their results in April. Students who do not pass the CAHSEE on their first attempt will have multiple opportunities in their junior and senior years.

In the next couple of weeks, families will begin to receive information about the STAR tests and the relating schedule. As the previous recognitions establish, these are important tests for our school and community. In addition, test results are used to evaluate the efforts and effectiveness of our course offerings and educational practices. Please speak with your student about these tests and encourage them to do their best.

During February and March, Mills begins to look forward to the next school year by scheduling Academic Planning nights where current freshmen and their parents are invited to meet with counselors to review their student's academic plan. Beginning March 3, counselors will begin making presentations in student classes reviewing the course request process for next year. I encourage all parents to take an active role in discussing their child's academic options for the upcoming year. If you have any questions about either topic, please contact your student's counselor at your earliest convenience.

For the first time, Mills will be exploring the possibility of offering Mandarin as part of the World Language Department. Mandarin is currently offered at three District schools and will be placed on the course request sheet this spring. If there is sufficient interest, Mills will begin classes in the fall. However, priority will be given to incoming freshmen as this will be new language in the department.

It has been an exciting time since our return from Winter Vacation. Our Winter Athletic teams have seen tremendous energy and success evidenced by a PAL Playoff berth for our Girl's Varsity Basketball team, probable CCS qualifying seasons for both Girl's and Boy's Basketball teams, and a second place finish for our Varsity and Frosh/Soph Girl's Soccer Teams. In addition, the Mills Dragon Team performed at both the Millbrae Lunar New Year Celebration and the San Francisco Lunar New Year Parade. In each of these areas, as well as the number of student activities not mentioned here, our students continue to excel and demonstrate the true spirit of Viking Pride. Go Vikings!

Paul Belzer, Principal



### MIDDLE COLLEGE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2008

San Mateo Middle College, an alternative education program for juniors and seniors in the SMUHS, is accepting applications for Fall 2008.

Students and parents interested in the program can contact the Middle College office to get an application or download an application from the website at [collegeofsanmateo.edu/middlecollege](http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/middlecollege). Nine Mills students are enrolled in the Middle College program.

Middle College, located at College of San Mateo, includes up to 30 juniors and 30 seniors. Students take a combination of high school and college classes and can earn both high school credits and college units.

Students are recommended for admission by teachers, guidance counselors and administrators. Other application procedures include student testing for reading and writing, an informational meeting with parents/guardians, and interviews with students and parents/guardians. Students and their parents are invited to visit Middle College.

Applications also are available in the Mills counseling office. Call (650) 574-6101 or email [middlecollege@smuhsd.org](mailto:middlecollege@smuhsd.org) for more information.

# Counseling Department and Career Center

## COUNSELING DEPARTMENT AND CAREER CENTER INPUT FOR VIKING VOICE FEBRUARY 2008

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR EVERYONE:

- \* Freshmen will have their four year planning sessions during the month of February. They have been notified by letter from the Counseling Department of when their small group session with counselors will be conducted.
- \* On February 5 and February 6 the sophomore class will be taking the High School Exit Exam during the regular school day.
- \* February 15 is the end of 6-week grading period.
- \* Seniors should be working on their FAFSA (free application for student aid) forms as March 2 is the deadline for submission (no exceptions).
- \* GPA verifications will be electronically submitted to the State by Mills High School, IF THE STUDENTS SIGNED A RELEASE FORM. If you are not sure that you turned this form in, please check with Mrs. Corti in the Career Center.
- \* Pre programming for fall 2008 will be during the weeks of March 3rd and March 10th. Programming will follow during the weeks of April 7th and April 14th.
- \* Mills Open House is scheduled for March 20 and an orientation for incoming 9th grade students will be in the Mills Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.
- \* For any upcoming news, please check the Mills Web Site and School Loop!

### I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of important testing dates.

Second semester is a busy time for students as they prepare to take State-mandated and Advanced Placements exams. In order to accommodate the implementation of these exams, our regular schedules may change on these dates.

#### March

**11<sup>th</sup> grade students** will participate in the **Early Assessment Program (EAP)** in their English classes during the week of March 10<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008. There will be no changes to the regular schedules.

10<sup>th</sup> grade students who were absent during the February administration of the **CAHSEE** will have the opportunity to make-up the exam on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008. There will be no changes to the regular schedules.

#### April

Our **STAR** testing window is from **April 7<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. **Grades 9, 10, and 11** will be required to participate in this administration of these exams. The STAR program measures students' progress in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. The exams are aligned to the California State Content Standards. Information regarding changes to our regular school schedules will be mailed

home at a later date.

#### May

Students will have the opportunity to take **Advanced Placement (AP)** tests during the weeks of May 5<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Students may register and pay for AP exams at the Counseling Office with Tammie McGee.

**Spring Semester Final Exams will take place May 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> for ALL students.** We ask that you make your vacation plans after finals exams. This will give students the opportunity to perform at their best and take their final exams during the designated time.

Please mark these important dates on your calendar. These dates are important for our school as well as all students. The purpose of these exams is to measure your students' academic progress as well as our school's instructional program. Please make sure your students' attend school on testing dates and encourage them to do well. **Irma Munoz, Assistant Principal**

Love language and culture? Like to travel and meet new people from abroad? Edu-Culture International (ECI), a non-profit based in

Love language and culture? Like to travel and meet new people from abroad? Edu-Culture International (ECI), a non-profit based in Berkeley, runs international educational programs and study abroad opportunities for American and European middle and high school students. Each summer, ECI welcomes hundreds of European students to the Bay Area. ECI looks forward to welcoming a group of French students who will be Millbrae July 8th to July 28th. ECI is always looking for interested members of the community to get involved with our programs in leadership capacities and as host families. Hosting a student is a unique opportunity for cultural and linguistic exchange. To learn more about ECI's programs, please call Monica at (510) 847.8295 or email [monica@educulture.org](mailto:monica@educulture.org).



### VIKING VOICE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Please submit articles, information and flyers for the Viking Voice by the dates below:

February 29—on website March 17

April 4—on website, April 28 Last issue of the 2007-2008 school year.

Send all items to [whippys@yahoo.com](mailto:whippys@yahoo.com), with a cc: to [Lynette.Gallegos@flysfo.com](mailto:Lynette.Gallegos@flysfo.com)

Thank you

# MMAG



## Mills Musical Arts Group

Dear MMAG members and supporters,

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who was involved in supporting MMAG in 2007.

Many thanks are due to our principal, Mr. Paul Belzer, for his support in the construction of a state of the art music class room and to Mr. Michael Toschak for being a substitute teacher for Mr. Crowell. I also appreciate the fact that in spite of Mr. Crowell's post surgery complications he maintained his support for his students until his return after the holiday break.

It would be remiss of me if I did not express my thanks to the MMAG board members who have been instrumental in their support, including Linda Fujitomi, Millie Siu, Ellen Egan, Ted Marsh, Jack Wan, and Kathleen Franceschi. Kathleen, in particular, has been involved with MMAG for nearly ten years, and her help has been invaluable.

I urge you to become active participants of the MMAG board and to attend our monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month. We meet in the music room at 7:00 p.m. Four of the current board members are "graduating" at the end of the school year, and Mr. Crowell and our students need will need your support in the coming years. Please consider helping us out.

The Winter Concert performance, which featured the Mills choir, orchestra, jazz band, and concert band, was a resounding success. Mills musicians and vocalists also participated in the Millbrae and Burlingame Tree Lighting ceremonies and our award winning jazz band was the featured attraction at the Millbrae recreation center celebration of Millbrae's 60th anniversary on January 12.

Preparations are underway to participate in the Heritage Music Festival at Anaheim this March. Fifty-five students and six parent chaperones have paid their deposits for this event. The cost will be approximately \$550. Your financial help and support of fundraising activities is necessary to help underwrite a scholarship fund to defray a portion of the cost.

In appreciation,

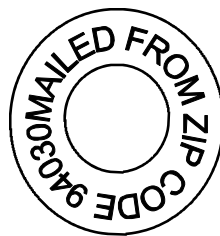
Roger Estassi

2007-08 MMAG co-president

## MILLS PTO 2007-2008

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Find out about  
 athletics games,  
 meets and matches  
 at:  
[www.mhsvikings.com](http://www.mhsvikings.com)

# Calendar

2/14	Spring Sports Parent Meeting, Auditorium @ 7pm
2/15	End of Six Week Grading Period
2/18	National Holiday – Presidents Day – No School
2/20	PTO Faculty Lounge @ 7pm
2/27	PTO Fundraiser @ 6:30-8pm
2/28	Board Meeting SMART Center, San Mateo @ 7pm
3/6	MMAG Meeting – Music Room 7pm
3/13	Board Meeting – San Mateo SMART Center @ 7pm
3/19	Athletic Boosters Meeting – Library @ 6pm, PTO Meeting @ 7pm
3/21	Minimum Day
3/24 – 3/28	Spring Break – No School
4/3	MMAG Meeting – Music Room @ 7pm
4/4	End of Six Week Grading Period
4/7 – 4/24	Star Testing
4/10 – 4/13	Spring Musical @ 7pm
4/16	GATE Parents Group – Auditorium @ 6pm
4/17	Board Meeting – San Mateo SMART Center @ 7pm
4/23	Athletic Boosters Meeting – Library @ 6pm
4/25	Staff Recess – No School
4/26	Senior/Junior Prom @ Design Center San Francisco