



VIKING VOICE

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**Happy Valentines
Day**

Next PTO
Meeting Date

February 18 2009

March 19, 2009



PTO President's Message

Hello Mills Parents, Students and Friends...

The new semester is well under way and we started with our first PTO meeting of the year on with a Pot Luck social for the Parents and staff at Mills. It was well attended with parents and staff enjoying the dinner, socializing and listening to Mr. Belzer's updates on Mills construction and upcoming school events.

In November we celebrated Mills 50th year Anniversary. Many alumni, parents and Mills staff attended. There was great food and drinks, and all had a great time socializing and talking about Mills. We raised money that will help contribute to Mills activities. We plan to have a yearly social event that can bring the Mills community together as well as being a fund raiser to financially help our students at Mills. Please consider helping at future events during 2009/10 school year.

The Mills dragon team has been practicing and was at the Millbrae Lunar Parade on Sunday, February 1st and will also be at the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade on Saturday night February 7th.

There are budget concerns resulting from Governor Schwarzenegger's announcements of cutbacks in the California school system. Measure M projects scheduled to be completed during the 2009 2010 years are on track. The plans are to construct a new building where the Ceramic classes are currently. Other future Measure M construction will be the completion of the Science Building, with the construction of the wood shop, the cafeteria, biotech room and Visual Arts rooms to be completed in 2010. We are anxiously awaiting the completion of the football field, field irrigation and the all purpose track around the football field at Mills High.

We understand during these hard economic times that financial contributions can be very difficult. With Measure M the schools have money from bonds to build the rooms where our students will have new classes, yet money will be needed from other sources to fund the new Biotech program and Visual Arts. Part of that will hopefully come from outside sponsorship, yet as parents can also assist with financial contributions.

The PTO Excellence Fund, which parents contribute to, has helped purchase a small portion of the equipment for the future biotech program. We will be sending a letter to all parents, asking to contribute financially to Mills to help support future programs and activities for our students. We know times are tough, but we want to give our students the best possible education we can, and parents help is not only needed, but really required. Sign up for eScrip so when you make everyday purchases, a portion of you purchases will go back to Mills. Help find ways to contribute to Mills and to our students.

PTO President's Message Continued

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. With our PTO memberships and fundraising we pay for School Loop, as well as facilitating MHS to use budgeted funds for other enhancement needs. Please use this online tool, School Loop to see how your students are doing and to communicate with the faculty.

We need parents to volunteer at many of the school functions. There will be a special teachers and staff appreciation luncheon on Friday, March 20th at noon. Please come with food and help serve our hard working teachers and staff at Mills. We also have other activities that include 8th grade parents night in March, incoming 9th grade registration on April 1-2 from 4-7 PM, AP testing monitoring during the first 2 weeks in May, 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 or contact the school office at 650-558-2501. Show our students we care about their education with school involvement.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled on Wednesday ,February 18th at the Mills Faculty lounge. Mr. Mike Claire, President of College of San Mateo will be the guest speaker. If you have students who are interested in college, this could be of interest to you, whether you have a Senior, Junior, sophomore or freshman. It is never too early to plan for college

Be sure to check out Millshigh.org website to see what's happening at Mills High School. Use School Loop. And 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



MILLS VIKING VOICE SCHEDULE 2008-2009

| ISSUE # | E-MAIL REMINDER | COPY DEADLINE <i>(last day to submit articles, advertisements, etc.)</i> | TARGET DELIVERY TO MHS WEBSITE |
|----------------|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| #4 March/April | February 23 - Monday | March 6 - Friday | March 16 - Monday |
| #5 May/June | April 13 - Monday | April 24 - Friday | May 11 - Monday |

Note: Winter break: December 22 - January 6

Spring Break: April 6 - April 10

****Viking Voice is available online only****



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

With all the news regarding the State's budget problems and public education funding coming out of Sacramento lately, it is easy to become disheartened. If recommendations to cut public school spending, as some have proposed, were to be realized, California would sink further down the list of states at the bottom of per pupil educational funding. If this is the case, public schools will again be forced to try to do more with less.

To prepare for the anticipated decrease in funding, the San Mateo Union High School District initiated a 7 period day committee consisting of two teachers, two District administrators, and two District School Board Trustees to examine the impact of the 7 period day first implemented in the 2006-2007 school year. The committee met several times during the fall semester including a public forum for teachers, students, and parents to give input. At the January 15 Board meeting, the committee recommended the District continue the 7 period day so that students have the opportunity to take support, art, and Career Technical Education classes in addition to core academic classes but reduce the number of classes offered. By reducing the number of offerings, the District estimates saving roughly \$500,000, reducing the expense of the 7 period day from \$1.6 million to roughly \$1.1 million. As a result, Mills is currently reviewing our academic and elective offerings in anticipation of the Board's ruling on February 5th.

Fortunately, Mills has had a long relationship with the Regional Occupation Program which provides additional classes for students on the Mills campus including Child Development and Digital Photography. In response to the possible reductions, Mills will plan to offer homework centers at the beginning and end of the day. Although Mills currently has a number of options for students to receive additional assistance, we will want to expand opportunities for academic support. I hope you will again support the Mills Excellence Fund as this will be just one of our important goals for next year. I will provide more information and updates at the PTO meeting on February 18.

I am glad to report Measure M is on track (pun intended). Mills administration and teachers have been meeting with Board-approved architects for much of the fall and plans are being finalized for the completion of the Career Technical wing, Cafeteria, new classroom building, and the boys and girls locker rooms. Construction is scheduled to begin this June with plans for opening the facilities in the 2010 school year.

In March, Mills will be receiving two important site visitations. The first visit is for our WASC accreditation process which will be followed by a visit from the California Distinguished Schools Accreditation committee. Mills became eligible to apply for the 2009 Distinguished School Award based on our work to close the achievement gap as measured by Mills ranking on the California Academic Performance Index. Mills previously received this distinguished award in 1988 and 1996. I am hopeful that Mills will once again be recognized as a California Distinguished School.

In close, although the news has often been bleak as of late, I am continually encouraged by the quality and character of our students and staff. Mills will continue to work through the difficult times as we strive to create a school that truly supports all our students in achieving their hopes and dreams.

Go Vikings!

Paul Belzer, Principal



Campus Clean Up

Students walk around Mills High School without knowing exactly what they really leave behind. In reality, everyday after lunch we leave behind significant amounts of trash that our own janitors have to clean up. So in order to correct this, the Leadership Class began the New Year with the idea for a campus clean up. On January 12th, the ASB officers introduced the campaign for a Clean Campus. We held activities, such as Trash Bag Santa and Trash Toss to encourage students to throw their trash away. We also had trash commissioners, in other words Leadership students, who walked around with trash bags to help students throw away trash. Over the week, we saw a change in students' attitude toward throwing away their trash; the plant manager reported that we reduced the trash on campus by about 50%. At the end of the week, we held two raffles for students to get a chance to be rewarded for their good deeds. The students had an overall great response to the raffles, as well as the campaign in general. The Leadership Class was proud to see that in the end, all the preparation for this campaign was a success.

This school year is just flying by! It is hard to believe that we are into the second semester!

Below is information for you and your student regarding upcoming events.

Mills will have its first Winter Semi-Formal Sadie Hawkins Dance on February 27th. The dance will be held in the banquet room at the Poplar Creek Golf Course from 7P.M.-10P.M. (Doors close at 8P.M.) Students who wish to bring a guest from another school must pick up a guest pass in the front office and get it signed by their parent and the guest school. Please arrange a ride for your student to and from the dance. Directions to Poplar Creek will be on the ticket.

Please note that the biggest dance of the year is our Junior/Senior Prom which will be held on April 25th at the San Francisco City Hall. Doors open at 7P.M. and close at 9P.M. The prom will end at 12:00midnight.

Seniors who have not ordered their cap and gown for the graduation commencement should pick up and an order form from Joyce Vranjes in Student Services. Graduation is on May 29th at 5P.M at the Performing Arts Center in San Mateo. More information will be coming.

Although next school year, 2009-2010, seems to be a long way off, the following is important information about the Academic Eligibility Policy for students who wish to participate in sports or any other extracurricular activity. Beginning next school year, all students who wish to participate in the District's extracurricular programs must meet the following qualifications:

* A minimum grade point average of 2.00

* Passing 5 classes or more

* No more than one grade of F

(There is no probationary period for any student who fails to meet the District's minimum eligibility standards.)

For more upcoming events at Mills, you can also check the monthly calendar on the Mills web-site.

Wishing you and your student a great spring semester.

Carole Siska

Assistant Principal of Administrative Services

Mills 50 the Anniversary, What A Weekend!!!

Mills celebrated its fiftieth anniversary during this year's homecoming weekend. We hope you were able to join us at the events.

The weekend began with the 50th Anniversary evening celebration at the Millbrae Recreation Center. More than three hundred people, including graduates dating back to the sixties along with current Mills parents and faculty, gathered for a reunion and celebration. The evening featured entertainment by our Mills music, dance, and drama groups, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and beverages, and lots of Mills memorabilia. Mills culinary class students provided wonderful additions to the catered food, and Mills leadership and other students helped with decorations, logistics, and staffing for the event.

The Rec Center was filled to capacity, with lively groups chatting about the past, finding themselves in yearbook photos, and meeting up with others connected with Mills.

A copy of the evening's program along with photos can be found at www.millshigh.org. You can also find a link there to the Dawdy Photography website for other photos taken over the weekend. Many thanks to everyone who helped put this evening together and contributed in so many ways to this special evening. A list is included in the program from the event. Special thanks to Mills teachers Polly Wiard and Roberta Lighty for heading up the celebration committee and for their many extra hours making it a success.

A tour of the school preceded the homecoming game. Our new field was dedicated to former Mills teachers and coaches Ed Parker and Jim Cox. Fans sat on temporary bleachers—new ones will be in soon, while Mr. Belzer and Superintendent Miller luxuriated on a special elevated couch (or was it a throne). The weather was spectacular, and fans enjoyed a great game performance by Mills, despite a last second loss to Capuchino. The weekend was capped off by the student homecoming dance at the school.

We are hoping that the 50th Anniversary Celebration will be the start of an annual Mills social evening for the longstanding Mills community, including parents, alumni, faculty, and other interested community members. The response to this year's event was very positive, and, with its large turnout, the evening ended up raising some money, as well. We are already beginning to talk about an event for next year and welcome anyone that would like to participate in the planning. Please contact the Mills PTO if you are interested.

Counseling Department and Career Center

COUNSELING AND CAREER CENTER:

Seniors: You should be working on your financial aid documents. The deadline for the GPA Verification and FAFSA are on March 2, 2009, however, private colleges had an earlier individual deadline. Make sure you check applications!

Counselors will conduct the Individual Learning Plans and Programming for school year 2009-2010 through the next few weeks.

February 13 will be the end of the first grading period of the spring semester.

Counseling is planning a Freshmen Academic Planning Night on March 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mills Auditorium. Freshmen Parents and Students are encouraged to attend this very informative and important evening.

Thursday, March 5, 2009 all seniors planning to attend community college are invited to participate in an applications workshop presentation in the Mills Library during 4th period. You will need an in house field trip form to attend. Those may be picked up in the Career Center.



MMAG (Mills Music Art Group)

MMAG is the parent boosters for the Mills High School music program. We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Music Room throughout the school year. I am very pleased to inform everyone that we have been accepted by the San Francisco Giants to play the National Anthem at their game against the arch rival Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at AT&T Park. We will have a designated seating area in the stadium to watch our students play the National Anthem and after, to watch the game. We will be selling the tickets to the game in the near future. We will let you know more when we have received all of the information. It will be a fun night.

Last school year, MMAG had sponsored a major music tournament trip in Anaheim. This school year we decided not to have a major trip, rather, we are participating in several local California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Music Festivals beginning in March. Our students will be performing for ratings and comments at those events. On March 7th, 2009, a select number of students will participate at the San Mateo Performance Arts Center in "In Concert XII," we hope you might be interested in coming to the performance.

Our Winter Concert on December 3rd, 2008 was an astounding success, with every music student participating on the stage. We sold more tickets than ever for this two and half hour event. We received rave reviews from the parents and community leaders who attended the concert.

On December 7th, our Jazz Band took to the streets and played in the Burlingame Open House and the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Our band attracted a full house of on lookers and pedestrians. In addition, on December 14th some of our Symphonic Band students also participated in the CSM winter concert. It was a learning experience for our students who benefitted from listening to the professional band that played in that concert. Good Job!

I am looking forward to your continuing support and participation in promoting a great music program, one of the largest on campus with about 150 participating students.

Jack Wan, 2008-2009 MMAG co-president



MILLS STIMULUS PACKAGE



The headlines are full of news about impending school **budget cuts**.

The Excellence Fund has already raised \$10,000 but reductions in government funding increase the need for help from our own school community.

You can help our school by donating directly to the **Mills Excellence Fund**.

Every dollar raised goes directly to educational needs at Mills, including equipment, supplemental materials, technology needs, and tutoring.

Every donation, large or small, helps us meet school needs.

PLEASE support the
"MILLS STIMULUS PACKAGE"
 with your contribution today!

I want to support the MILLS EXCELLENCE Fund. Enclosed is my check:
 (Please make checks payable to **Vikings Parent Group Excellence Fund**)

\$100 Friend \$250 Sponsor \$500 Patron \$1000 Benefactor

\$ Other (No amount is too big or too small)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Student's Name and Grade: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

(We occasionally send emails to our members informing them of PTO activities.)

May we include your name in the Mills PTO Viking Voice as a contributor to the Excellence Fund?

Yes No

Are you a parent? Community Member? Other?

Please send donations to:

Mills High School PTO, Attn. Excellence Fund, 400 Murchison Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030

GRAD NIGHT 2009

GRAD NIGHT is a PTO-sponsored ALL-NIGHT Graduation Party for the Mills High School Class of 2009, scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2009 - Saturday, May 30, 2009.

It includes:

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

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 30, when your student is returned to the Mills Campus.

Early Bird Special: \$130 (until February 28, 2009, when the cost will increase to \$150.)

Reserve your space NOW!

Register your child NOW! Don't 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 millsgradnight2009@yahoo.com.

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

Mills High School Grad Night 2009 Registration Form

Name of Senior Student _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

FREE T-SHIRT INCLUDED (please 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) _____

Parent/Guardian E-Mail Address Required (please print clearly) _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ No. of Tickets _____ Check Number _____

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! NAME _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE # _____

TICKETS ARE \$130 UNTIL FEB. 28, 2009; AFTER FEB. 28, 2009, TICKETS WILL BE \$150.

Checks payable to "Mills Grad Night." Drop off at Grad Night mailbox in school office or mail to Mills High School Grad Night, 400 Murchison Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030.



Mills High School 2nd Annual Alumni Dinner

April 17, 2009
Mills High School
6:30 - 9:00 pm
\$15.00 per guest

People's Outreach Club is hosting its second Annual Alumni Dinner. Please join us and reconnect with your high school classmates and teachers. Entertainment will be provided by Mills students.

If you would like to attend, please fill out the information form below. Please make checks payable to Roberta Lighty- Alumni Dinner. You may also RSVP your intent to peoplesoutreach@gmail.com and pay at your arrival.

Name of Graduate: _____ Year: _____

Name of Spouse or Guest: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please fill out this form and send to:
Attn: Roberta Lighty Mills High School 400 Murchison Drive, Millbrae,
CA 94030. Checks payable to: Roberta Lighty- Alumni Dinner.
RSVP your intent to peoplesoutreach@gmail.com by **April 6th**.

Mills High School Library



ADOPT - A - MAGAZINE PROGRAM

Mills Library subscribes to more than 40 periodicals for students to use for research and assignments or just for reading and browsing. The average cost of a magazine is at least \$20.

Please support reading literacy by making a donation for magazine subscriptions, by filling out the form below and attaching your check made out to **Mills High School**. To recognize your generosity, your name will be placed on the "Donation Wall" in the library, making Mills students aware of your support of our school library program.

Your Name: _____

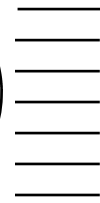
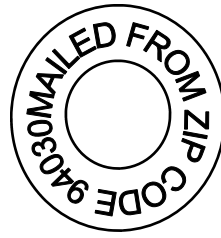
Check made out to Mills High School \$ _____
attach this form.

Name: _____ as you would like it to appear on
the Donation Wall.

Please drop off your check to the office or mail to:

**Mills High School
400 Murchison Drive
Millbrae, CA 94030**

Produced and mailed by:
 Vikings Parent Group
 400 Murchison Drive
 Millbrae, CA 94030



Check out the NEW Mills High
 web site at: www.millshigh.org

Find out about
 athletics games,
 meets and matches at:
www.mhsvikings.com



Calendar

| FEBRUARY | |
|----------|---|
| 5 | Board of Trustees meeting—7pm Smart Center |
| 6 | No School—Professional Development Day |
| 9 | 8th Grade Family Night—6pm Auditorium |
| 16 | No School—President's Day |
| 18 | Athletic Boosters meeting—7pm Library PTO meeting—7pm Faculty Lounge |
| 24 | Spring Sports Parents meeting—7pm Auditorium |
| 26 | Eight Grade Parent night—7pm Auditorium |
| MARCH | |
| 9 | Grad Night Parents meeting—7pm Faculty Lounge |
| 12 | Board Meeting—7pm SMART Center |
| 19 | Mills Open House 6pm Incoming Freshmen—Auditorium 7pm Current Students |
| 25 | Athletic Boosters meeting—7pm Library PTO meeting—7pm Faculty Lounge |