

REDWOOD POST

Volume 8, Issue 4

Dec. 2007 - Jan. 2008

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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For additional information and frequent updates visit us on the web at

www.redwood.org
www.redwoodptsa.org

FROM THE DESK OF

Nancy Neu

Principal

The staff and administration of Redwood High School is committed to providing an excellent education for all our students as well as enriching extracurricular programs. Students learn to set goals, strive for excellence, and to properly handle whatever adversity they encounter along the way. This aim is the same in the classroom as it is on the playing field. With the upcoming Marin County Athletic League basketball season starting up, it is an appropriate time to review the goals of our Athletics program as they relate to the topic of sportsmanship. This topic will be a focus of Home-room next semester.

One of the greatest challenges to good sportsmanship is adversity. It can be difficult to handle things when they are not going well. It is easy to shift the blame from ourselves to our opponents, or more often, to the officials. This often changes the focus from the positive goal of playing harder or better, to a more negative one. It is essential for our student athletes to maintain a positive approach to handling adversity and to do this we need the support of Redwood parents and community.

Parents are the ultimate role models to show their children how to behave. I'm sure we've all

been to games where some parents have been quite vocal, criticizing both opposing players and the officials. This type of abusive behavior is counter-productive to what we are trying to teach. It also creates an uncomfortable environment for those fans that have come out to support their team and enjoy the game. I am asking all our fans to keep comments positive and upbeat.

Athletics is a large part of the high school experience for many students as well as their coaches, parents/guardians and supporters. The principals of the Marin County Athletic League (MCAL) are committed to making this a positive experience for all participants. Integrity, fairness, and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics; these are the principles of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of the results.

Continued on next page

A GIANT Reminder

The first day of the spring semester is Tuesday, January 8, 2008. Students may pick up their schedules at 7:30 a.m. in the Gym. The week of January 8 - 11, we will follow our regular bell schedule for each day.

From the Desk of Nancy Neu, cont.

You can have a major influence on your student's attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role you take in sportsmanship will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come. Please join us in supporting this philosophy by adhering to school and MCAL regulations and policies for good sportsmanship. At the end of this article is a general list of ways in which you can best support our athletes and athletic program. I appreciate your continued support in this matter. For more information, please contact Athletic Director Wendy Stratton at 945-3619.

May the holidays be a time of recreation and relaxation with family and friends. Take the time to reflect on the events of the past year as we prepare to face the challenges and opportunities that come to us in the year 2008.

Final Exam Schedule Fall 2007

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007

Period 1	Final Exam	8:00 – 10:00
BREAK		10:00 – 10:10
Period 2		10:15 – 10:54
Period 3		10:59 – 11:38
Period 4		11:43 – 12:22
LUNCH		12:22 – 12:58
Period 5		1:03 – 1:42
Period 6		1:47 – 2:26
Period 7		2:31 – 3:10

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007

Period 2	Final Exam	8:30 – 10:30
BREAK		10:30 – 10:45
Period 3	Final Exam	10:50 – 12:50

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007

Period 4	Final Exam	8:30 – 10:30
BREAK		10:30 – 10:45
Period 5	Final Exam	10:50 – 12:50

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2007

Period 6	Final Exam	8:30 – 10:30
BREAK		10:30 – 10:45
Period 7	Final Exam	10:50 – 12:50

Guidelines For Good Sportsmanship

- Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Encourage your team by positively cheering for them.
- Sit in the area designated for your school.
- Welcome the visiting team, showing respect at all times.
- Never throw an item on the playing surface or use a laser pointer.
- Respect, accept, and abide by the decision made by the contest officials.
- Judgment calls on the part of the officials are not subject to question or discussion.
- Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the game.
- Questioning an official's call or making negative comments about an official is unacceptable behavior.
- Yelling, booing, or heckling an official's decision is unacceptable behavior.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including the content of cheers and signs.
- Be a good host to the opponents – treat them like guests.
- Lose without excuse and win without boasting.
- Model language and behavior that is non-biased.
- Never criticize a player, coach, or officials.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play, no matter who does it!
- Follow the rules at all times.
- Mascots & cheer personnel are the only ones who may wear costumes.
- Faces may be painted, but only with a small school logo, mascot, or initials, not to exceed 2 square inches in size.
- Artificial noisemakers like air-horns, cowbells, clappers, megaphones, and drums may not be used.
- If spectators leave the gym, they will not be allowed to re-enter.
- Doors close at the end of the third quarter.
- Spectators may not bring basketballs into a facility or play during time outs, half time, or between games. ■

PTSA Executive Board

Barbara Solomon, *President*

Susan Miltner,

Executive Vice-President

Jeannie Perry, *Vice-President*

Tish Borden, *Treasurer*

Jody Coker, *Secretary*

Cindy Brown, *Auditor*

Nora Kovach, *Parliamentarian*

Upcoming PTSA Meetings and Speakers

Thursdays, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Jan. 10

Understanding Teen Girls: Their Capabilities and World View. Brenda Bercun, a clinical nurse specialist in child and family health, provides insights about teenage girls to help us enjoy more effective communication and healthier relationships.

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 Parents,

The Holidays are upon us, and this is a time for saying "Thanks."

We have a dedicated, hard-working, and skilled school staff who really care about our kids and go out of their way to educate and nurture them. Most parents I know are pleased with their students' experience at Redwood. Please take the time to express your thanks by writing a short note to a Redwood administrator, counselor, teacher, or staff person who has made a difference in your student's life. Instead of giving small token gifts this season, consider donating larger items such as gift certificates, gift baskets, tickets to events, cash, or other items to our PTSA Staff Appreciation Drawing. The drawing takes place once a month and honors the entire Redwood staff throughout the year.

Our thanks go to Principal Nancy Neu for her cautionary letters, emails, and security precautions for the Homecoming Dance. She goes beyond the call of duty to ensure that our school dances are safe and secure for all our kids. Luckily the Homecoming Dance was well attended, safe, and successful, and only one student got caught breaking the rules. One note of caution: apparently many girls wore very short dresses (hopefully with bicycle shorts underneath). The MTV-inspired style of dancing these days involves a lot of physical intimacy and bodily contact. Parents beware: talk to your kids about proper attire and dancing at school dances.

Thanks to Anne Gilberg and Jean Suliteanu for hosting the Freshman Parent Social on Nov. 14.

Also, a BIG thank you to Vice-President Jeannie Perry for organizing all of our informative and timely Parent Education Programs this year. We had a great turnout for our November program, *Understanding Teen Boys*, with Brenda Bercun. For those who missed it, Brenda will be back in January with another program, about teen girls. Whether or not you have a daughter, please join us for a fascinating discussion.

The annual **Parent University** will take place at Redwood this year, on Saturday, February 9. This helpful and free parent ed forum, presented by the Marin County Health and Education Departments, features a keynote speaker and a variety of one-hour workshops on issues of vital interest to parents of teens. Since Parent U rotates from school to school every year, take advantage of the opportunity to attend this year's program on our very own campus.

PTSA is working with the Administration to put together substance abuse awareness programs for students in all four grades of Redwood this year. Details will be provided in future issues of the Post. Ideas and suggestions are welcome on this issue. Write to president@redwoodptsa.org.

There is no December PTSA meeting or event. We look forward to seeing you all in January! Happy Holidays and New Year!

Barbara Solomon

Redwood PTSA President ■

RHSF Annual Campaign Ahead of Last Year

As of November 13, this year's Annual Campaign has reached almost \$300,000! That's well ahead of last year and is primarily due to the 35 parent volunteers that made phone calls to our entire parent list during the past 4 weeks.

Our goal is 100% participation in the campaign this year and these 35 parents have been instrumental in reaching out to parents and encouraging everyone to give something.

Our thanks go to:

Brian Bidwell
Katie and Jim Burke
Dave Bruener
Trudie Coker
Camille Dibble
Sandy Esposito
Colleen Fitzpatrick
Bitsa Freeman
Marilyn Goldeen
Liz Goldsborough
Jeff Goodrich
Judy Groesbeck

Dana Hagan
Becky Hlebasko
Elizabeth Ireland
Rachel Janin
Hill Kantola
Charlotte King
Hope Kragh
Clark Lehman
Susan Livingston
Sara McGhie
Jeff Mishkin
Dave Monetta

Chris Morrison
Susan Morrow
Barbara Roberts
Bjorn Sanberg
Scottie Spurzem
Ginny Sandell
Libby Tracy
Cynthia and Kurt Trutner
Barry Weinstein
Bob Whelan
Iris Winey

Have You Donated Yet?

Although we are ahead of last year, we are still at less than half of our \$700,000 goal. So if you haven't given yet, we need your contribution! In order to process your tax deductible donation within 2007, we must receive your credit card information by December 21. We cannot get the mail while the school is closed so either use a check or send your credit card donation in time to be received before school closes. 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, contact Veronica Tunucci in the Foundation office at 924-6793 or email her at redwoodhsf@hotmail.com.

It takes everyone's help to meet the financial needs of all departments so any and all donation amounts are appreciated. Benchwarmers and the Support Panel have already funded fall grant requests. Winter and spring sports requests and the spring Support Panel will benefit from your donation.

Give to RHSF Today!

– Sara McGhie, Redwood Foundation President ■

Thank You...

to the following parents who have donated to the **Redwood Foundation** this year.

These families represent 20% participation and reflect contributions received as of 11/14/07. Our goal is 100% so if you haven't given yet, please donate to support academics, arts, athletics, and campus improvements at Redwood.

Philanthropist \$10,000+

David & Camille Dibble
Monica & Daniel McGue

Benefactor \$5,000+

Mr. & Mrs. T.A. Cooper
Jon Dickinson, M.D.
Carolyn & Doug Grey
Nick & Linda Hoppe
Clark & Deirdre Lehman
Vicki Peilen

Patron \$2,500+

Blum Family
Rob Bronson & Cindy Fabian
Jim & Katie Burke
Elizabeth & L.J. Cella
Michael & Mary Connolly
Samuel P. & Henriette Corn
Bitsa & Jim Freeman
Kiki Goshay
Christopher Guthrie
Ed Jameson & Monica Burke
Josh & Kathy Margolis
Sara & Austin McGhie
Sexton, Baldwin, McInnis Family
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James Parsons & Andrea Hong
Leif & Debbie Petersen
Mark & Kappy Reed
Lauren Howard & Rich Reese
Debby & Paul Sagues
Roy & Patty Shimek
Karl & Scottie Spurzem
Michael & Robin Stallman
David & Jean Suliteanu

Bob & Suzanne Whelan
Daniel & Iris Winey

Major Donor \$1,300+

Cliff & Linda Alm
John & Amanda Anderson
Anonymous
Mike & Linda Balok
Phil & Pam Bartlett

Sally & Eric Blatt
Alison & Jim Carbone
Igor & Tatiana Cherkas
Carl Cox & Gilda Turitz
Linda & Drew Deer

Joan DiFuria
Robert & Rita Dulebohn
Paul Finkle & Sue DeVinny
Craig Hartman & Jan O'Brien
Paul & Corinne Hartman

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Larry Litvak & June Cooperman

Vivian & Steve McClure
Kathy & Mark Mindham
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Jeff & Darice O'Neill
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Jeannie & Ken Perry
Rob & Cynthia Peterson
Steve & Martha Petrakis
Glen & Debbie Roycroft
Lee Schwartz & Madeline Levine

Scott & Jennifer Sinclair
Bruce & Margie Smith
Matt & Kathleen Smyth

Joe & Sara Spero
Robert & Sharon Staley
Derek & Sharon Stothard
Paul & Amy Thimmig
Steven & Andi Thompson

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David Weinstock & Rose Gavin
Christopher Wheaton & Molie Malone
Rod & Carol Williams
Donald R. Wilson
Alan Yukawa & Suzanne Phister
Todd & Diane Ziesing

Supporting Donor \$900+

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Alan & Liseanne Alperin
Soori & Hossein Arzang
Rich & Marika Bergsund
Bud Broomhead
Machelle Burkstrand
Michael Chen
Margaux & Dudley DeNador
Ferenc & Karen Dobronyi
Stephen Donelan & Jeanne Lavin
Colleen & Chris Frasco
Robert Goddard
Carol Goldberg
Goldeen Family
Diane Green
Mike & Libby Hatfield
Jerry Hauser & Jennifer Wallace
Jon & Hope Kragh
Kreitzberg Family Foundation as recommended by the Spinrad Family
Scott & Jackie Littman
Helen & Tony Mak
Lisa H. Barry
Daniel & Nancy McLennon
Jane M. Meill
Debra & Mark Melvin
Jeff & Wendy Meunier
Montesinos Family
Diane Moore
Rita & Anders Nattestad
Mark & Janie Newman
Bret & Marty Osborn
Paraventi Jones Family

Thank You!

John & Janet Polachek
 Kurt & Nancy Rademacher
 Joette & Paul Rea
 Joy & Robert Rudy
 Steve & Kelley Ryan
 Marilyn & David Schneller
 Mary & Charles Sink
 Jeff Slavitz & Nancy Sumner
 The Spinrad Family
 Jim & Brenda Sunseri
 Heidi Swan
 Rob & Jeanette Thorson
 Eric & Debbie Toizer
 Todd & Gayle Travers
 Kurt & Cynthia Trutner
 Paula Todd
 Peter & Ellen Whalen
 Zach & Marlies Zeisler

Donor \$500+

Tim Baker & Julie Glavin
 Robin Barnato
 Duncan & Jeanne Barr
 Vasfi & Pauline Basaran
 Nanette Biers
 Debbie & Jim Black
 Sheldon & Michelle Bloom
 John & Erika Brooks
 David Chernoff, M.D.
 Ellen Cutler & BioSET Inc.
 Pete & Jacqui DeGregory
 Gary DiFuria
 Cyndy Doherty
 Michael & Armelle Futterman
 Jeff Gunderson & Jill Ley
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 Tara Sullivan & Jim Horan
 Deana & Paul Kardel
 Jeffrey Kaufman
 Hisako Kobayashi
 Roger & Liz Krakow
 P.K. Krechel
 Linda & Kevin Kreitzman

Rick Krueger & Susan Whitney
 Anja Laicher
 David & Jackie Lowenberg
 Sissi & Anoush Massoumi
 Ron & Mikel Naso
 Frank & Lori Ross
 Nathan & Yardena Roth
 Geoffrey Rotwein & Rachel Weinstein
 William & Glenise Sibbern
 Manuel Tarrazo & Margaret McHugh
 Townsend Family
 Anthony & Marilyn Treacy
 Eric Watterud
 Marion Weinreb
 Matt & Lisa Wertheim
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 Paul Zieff & Chandra Denenberg Zieff

Contributor up to \$499

Active Auto Sales
 Anonymous
 Miriam & Prosper Attias
 Arnold & Lauren Bacigalupi
 Jon & Buffie Ballard
 Ron Baum & Kathy Sanders
 William Keener & Nance Becker
 Bernhardt & Kamei
 Robbi & John Bush
 Marsha & Harvey Celler
 Sanjay & Kabita Choudhuri
 Cathy Coffman
 Arthur & Angela Curley
 Kathleen Daly
 Jan & Chris Davison
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 Marc & Monica Sherman
 David & Elisa Skaggs
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Soda
 Dave Stuhlberg & Liza Mathews
 Toni Tang
 Peter & Laurie Treganowen
 Lory & Suzy Wiviott
 Alisa Knobbe Wynd ■

Parents Take Note!

SEMESTER GRADES

The last final from first semester is scheduled just before winter break on Friday, December 21, which means that report cards will be mailed after we return for the second semester. The scheduled mailing date is Friday, January 18.

SCHEDULES FOR SECOND SEMESTER

Students will pick up their second semester schedules at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8. Remember that most courses at Redwood are year-long and many students will have few, if any, changes for spring. Some electives are semester long and those classes, for both semesters, were chosen last spring. Generally we make very few schedule changes in January except in cases where the grade that a student earns prevents him/her from continuing in a sequence.

JUNIOR PARENTS

Junior Conferences begin the first week of February and continue through May. Conferences, which include the student and parent(s), 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. Look in the next *Post* for more information about scheduling your appointment.

SOPHOMORE PARENTS

Mark your calendars now for the Sophomore Potluck, which will be on Tuesday, February 12, at 5:30 p.m. In January you will receive more information about this fun and informative evening.

SENIORS

Many private colleges require mid-year reports and ask students to mail a transcript containing first semester grades by February 1. Students can check at www.commonapp.org or a college's own admission web site to see if the colleges to which they have applied require a mid-year report. If a report is needed, students should bring their counselor a stamped (41 cent stamp), addressed envelope for each school and submit a transcript request with Charlene DeLosa, our Records Clerk, in Room 103. This should be done by mid-January.

Fran Bozdech, Head Counselor ■

Stay On Track

Paula Vantrease

Seniors breathed a sigh of relief Friday, November 30, when their applications to University of California and California State University were submitted. Students who are applying to private and any out-of-state public colleges need to check on the deadlines for their applications and financial aid forms.

FINANCIAL AID

January and February are the months when seniors need to be applying for financial aid via the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and Cal Grant (GPA Verification Form) for

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME/LOCATION
12/06/07	Financial Aid Workshop	7 p.m., Library
01/01/08	Begin filing the FAFSA	Online – www.fafsa.ed.gov
Now on	Complete GPA Verification forms – Cal Grant	Paper (ccc)
01/19/08	National Portfolio Day	California College of the Arts, SF www.cca.edu ; 415/703-9500, 800/477-1ART
02/12/08	Sophomore Pot Luck	5:30 p.m. CSEA
03/02/08	Filing deadline for FAFSA & Cal Grant	Online/Paper
04/17/08	NACAC College Fair	3 to 7 p.m., Concourse Exhibition Center, SF
04/23/08	WACAC College Fair	6 to 8 p.m., Dominican Univ.

federal and state financial aid for college.

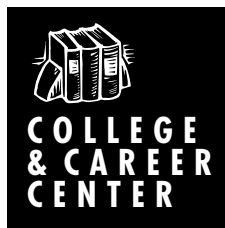
Parents and students may go online to www.pin.ed.gov to apply for a pin (personal identification number) when completing the FAFSA

College & Career Center News, cont.

and submitting it online as the pin acts as your signature (the process takes approximately three days). You may choose to submit online and not use the pin as your signature. If so you may print out the signature page and mail it to the federal processor. Each student must have his own pin, however, parents need to have only one, no matter how many children you have applying for financial aid. It is the student's pin that opens the FAFSA for completion.

We recommend if at all possible having your income taxes completed for the year 2007 prior to beginning of the process. If you do not and will not complete them before the March 2 deadline, you may complete the FAFSA by estimating, using figures from last year's tax forms, and make corrections once you have filed.

Once the form has been completed and submitted to the federal processor you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) which contains all information processed and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The SAR will be sent to you online, otherwise it will be sent to you in the regular mail. Corrections will be made online, as well as making changes to the colleges receiving your



financial information. If you would like to have an idea of your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) prior to completing the FAFSA go to:

www.finaid.org/calculators.

For additional assistance in completing the FAFSA and competing for a \$1,000 scholarship, check out California Cash for College Workshops at: www.cash4college.org

Additionally, if you do not have a computer at home and need one to complete the FAFSA, there are three computers available in the College & Career Center for students and parents to use. The College & Career Center is located in Room 111 and is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call Paula to schedule a date and time for computer use.

CAL GRANT – May be used only if attending a college or university in California. The form needed by the student to apply for a Cal Grant is called a GPA Verification Form and will be available soon in the College & Career Center. The student needs to complete the student information and have the GPA entered and verified by Charlene DeLosa in the Counseling Office. This forms needs to be mailed by the March 2 deadline. We recommend obtaining a Certificate of Mailing from the Post Office for any forms sent by U.S. Mail.

THE THREE TYPES OF CAL GRANTS

CAL GRANT A – assists students with tuition and fees at four-year colleges (up to \$6,141 at a University of California campus, up to \$2,520 at a California State University, and up to \$9,708 at independent colleges). To qualify, students must have a least a 3.0 GPA and their course of study must be at least two academic years.

CAL GRANT B – is for students who have at least a 2.0 and whose course of study is for at least one year. Cal Grant B provides a living allowance of up to \$1,551, in addition to a tuition and fee award. Most first students receive only the living allowance, which may be used to pay living expenses, books, supplies, and transportation, as well as tuition and fees. When renewed or awarded beyond the first year, students may receive the living allowance, as well as a tuition and fee award.

College Admission Test Dates

SAT/Subject TEST DATES 2008

www.collegeboard.com

Test Date	Reg. Deadline	Late Reg. Deadline
Jan. 26, 2008	Dec. 26, 2007	Jan. 4, 2008
Mar. 1, 2008	(SAT only) Jan. 29, '08	Feb. 7, 2008
May 3, 2008	April 1, 2008	April 10, 2008
June 7, 2008	May 6, 2008	May 15, 2008

ACT TEST DATES 2008

www.act.org

Test Date	Reg. Deadline	Late Reg. Deadline
Feb. 9, 2008	Jan. 4, 2008	Jan. 5 – Jan. 18, 2008
April 12, 2008	Mar. 7, 2008	Mar. 8 – Mar. 21, 2008
June 14, 2008	May 9, 2008	May 10 – May 23, 2008

College & Career Center News, cont.

CAL GRANT C – is for students pursuing a career or technical education. Course work must lead to a recognized career goal – a diploma, associate degree, license qualification or certificate – which indicates at least an entry level job skill. Courses of study must be for at least four months. Funding is available on the length of the program, if students maintain satisfactory academic progress.

We would like to encourage all of our families to complete the FAFSA and GPA verification forms. This process is the key to the financial aid office at the college your child will be attending. If for some reason your financial situation changes at any time, having

the forms completed will speed up the process when dealing with college financial aid officers.

ROP News

ROP will offer a spring course at Redwood in Construction Technology beginning Wednesday, January 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. Students can earn 5 units for this class and need to be 16 years of age or older. If you are interested you may register by calling 499-5860 or by stopping by the College & Career Center.

Other after-school and evening classes, such as Auto Technology, Radio Broadcasting, and Computer Applications are available to students. ■

Events and Internships

Upcoming Events

Grammy Career Day is the perfect field trip for aspiring musicians, singers, songwriters, disc jockeys, sound engineers, and students who are interested in exploring careers in the music industry. This all-day field trip, sponsored by the Recording Academy, is on Wed., January 16, at San Francisco State University. Students will spend the day listening to musical performances, going to interactive workshops, and hearing panel discussions on the different opportunities available in the recording industry. Applications are available in the College and Career Center and are due immediately.

Internships are a great way to explore a potential career and get work experience. 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. Internships are available in a wide variety of fields: healthcare, computers, commu-



nity groups, business, law, environmental, media, hospitality, and more. Applications complete with a resume and teacher recommendation are due on February 1.

Other School to Career Services

As the School to Career Liaison for Redwood, 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 (415) 945-3604 Tam HS (415) 380-3558
nwestreich@tamdistrict.org ■

POTTERY SALE

Student & Teacher Artwork for Sale

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 12–3:30 pm – Ceramics Room 510 at Redwood

Don't miss it – great bargains! Do your holiday shopping right there!



MRSA Health Advisory

Over the past months, reports have appeared in the news media regarding students who have contracted a staph infection known as MRSA. Marin County School Districts received a briefing from Dr. Anju Goel, Deputy Public Health Officer, Marin County Department of Health and Human Services, about MRSA. Key points included:

- MRSA is a staph infection. While staph infections are common, this type of staph is showing an increasing resistance to antibiotics.
- The vast majority of cases studied by the Journal of the American Medical Association were contracted in health care settings such as hospitals. Only 15% were contracted in community settings such as schools in people without risk factors for infection.
- MRSA is commonly transmitted by skin-to-skin contact. It can also be transferred from the infected person onto a shared object or surface. Athletic facilities are susceptible so it is important that precautions be taken with regard to commonly shared items such as towels, soap, and athletic equipment.
- Unless directed by a physician, students with MRSA infections should not be excluded from attending school. Students who have draining infections that cannot be covered and contained should be excluded from school until the infection is healed or can be covered and contained. If the student is involved in a physical activity or sport that involves skin-to-skin contact with other students, he or she should be excluded from those activities until the lesions are healed or can be covered and contained adequately; return to those activities should be approved by a school official or doctor.
- The Department of Public Health does not keep a record of MRSA cases. Some school districts taking part in the conference call reported incidents of students with staph infections. Dr. Goel will be consulting with her colleagues to determine if it would be helpful to have cases reported and will advise.

Dr. Goel provided the following information for schools and for individuals with regard to preventing the spread of the staph infection:

- Washing hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and warm water, or use of an alcohol based hand cleaner (when hands are not visibly soiled) can help prevent spread of infection. Use some of the same precautions for prevention as you would use to prevent other illnesses, especially washing hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and warm water.
- Alcohol-based hand cleaners are effective. Wipes are only effective if they are alcohol-based. It is important to note that the most important part of washing hands is the vigorous rubbing of the hands together to thoroughly clean the skin.
- Keeps cuts and scrapes clean and covered.
- Avoid skin contact and sharing personal items with anyone suspected of having MRSA.
- Regarding athletic equipment, it is helpful to clean or wipe down equipment used by one person at a time, such as a weightlifting bench or exercise machine. No extraordinary precautions or cleaning are necessary for equipment, such as mats, that might be used by multiple people, other than regular proper cleaning procedures.

Any additional information will be provided to school districts as it becomes available. We are very grateful to our partners at the Department of Health and Human Services for their support on this issue and for so many other programs and projects that support our students and their families.

Mary Jane Burke

Marin County Superintendent of Schools ■

Meet the Applied Technology Department

By Joe Downey

We Need Your Old Bicycles

Students in our Engineering Projects class need any bicycles ready for reuse and recycling. In this project, students “cannibalize” old bikes for functional parts and use them in making new 3- or 4-wheeled Human Powered Vehicles that get great mileage! So, if you have any bicycles that you would like to donate, please give me a call. Joe Downey, 945-3650, or jdowney@redwood.org.

Learn to Build Classes Start in January, Get a Job in June!

Each Spring Semester, the ROP Construction/Remodeling Class is held on Wednesdays from 5 to 9 p.m., and is open to all Redwood students as well as adults. The class – taught by professionals in the construction field – will build sheds in small teams, offering students the hands-on experience they’ll need to get a job. Materials for the sheds are donated by several local businesses and Rotary Clubs, as well as our own Redwood High School Foundation.

Students who complete the spring class can enroll in the Construction Technology Summer Internship and work at a paid job during the summer as well as get 5 units of high school credit. The Marin Builders Association offers grants to acknowledge students who excel in these programs.

Students See Their Future with Job Shadows

Why do I have to learn all of this math? What am I ever going to do

with it? Why do I have to write this report? Make this speech? And on and on... Sound familiar? The Applied Technology Department provides students with the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that have direct applicability to future careers. In partnership with the School to Career Partnership, the Regional Occupational Program (ROP), and the Marin Builders Association, we provide opportunities for students to Job Shadow with professionals in select fields in which they are interested – perhaps a glimpse of their future.

The students who are enrolled in the Architectural Design, Engineering, or Construction Technology (AEC) classes in the Tam District had an opportunity on Nov. 29 to meet with professionals in one of these fields and spend the morning “shadowing” them at work. Students came back with comments like, “Now I know what I want to be!” or “Wow, I need to study harder and get better grades to be able to be an engineer. What they do is so cool!”

Sometimes knowing why we are doing something, especially if it is difficult, makes it easier to make that last mile. Job Shadows are a great opportunity for our students to make the “applied connection.” If you want to learn more about the AEC School to Career program here at Redwood, contact Nancy Westreich, our School to Career Liaison, at 945-3604. If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Joe Downey at 945-3650 or jdowney@redwood.org. ■

Cable TV Program Features Redwood Library

By Tom Kaun, Library Media Teacher

Comcast came to the Bessie Chin Library back in November to film students and teachers using technology and other resources to access information for reports and projects. They filmed Mr. Hettleman’s Academic Workshop students looking for information about how to do videotaping for a play they had written. Mr. Brown and Ms. Kemp’s Government classes were filmed presenting their Mock Senate. The segments filmed that day will become a part of Education Matters, a locally produced cable television program.

Marin County Superintendent of Schools Mary Jane Burke inter-

viewed me and two other Marin County librarians at the Comcast studios. Questions focused on how high school students are finding and using information in ever more sophisticated ways.

Education Matters airs on local cable channel 78 Wednesday nights at 9 p.m., Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m., and Thursday nights at 9:30 p.m. It can also be downloaded from the Education Matters Web page, <http://educationmatters.tv>. Check my blog <http://libraryleaves.blogspot.com> for the air dates. ■

Oscar Winner Walter Murch Visits Redwood's Film Class

Nominated for 19 Oscars, three-time winner/editor Walter Murch was guest lecturer in Gary DeTore's Film class on Nov. 7. Murch spent 90 minutes talking about and screening his Oscar-nominated film *Ghost*. As sequences of film played on the projector, Murch talked about his role in editing sound and visuals in a movie. He takes individual shots, and through intricate placement, creates scenes that draw out an emotional response from an audience. We learned how making a movie is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle and the infinite possibilities inherent in combining shots to create the story. He answered students' questions, but was

hesitant to choose the movie he was most proud of (consider his list): *Apocalypse Now*, *Cold Mountain*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *The English Patient*, *Godfather*, *Jarhead*, *THX-1138*, *American Graffiti*, *Dragonslayer*, *The Conversation* – the list spans thirty years of American film history. We are fortunate to have people who will come in to class and share their experiences. If you (or someone you know) work in the film business, we would be delighted to hear about your experiences. You don't have to be an Oscar winner! Send an email to gdetore@redwood.org and we would be happy to schedule a visit. ■

GET READY MARIN!

You have seen signs around town for Get Ready Marin? It's a county-wide program to help you prepare yourself, your family, and your home for an emergency (earthquake, fire, flood). Experts tell us that we need to be able to "Shelter in Place" – perhaps live in our backyards – for up to seven days. Do you have all of the supplies and knowledge you need? Are you sure?

Mark your new 2008 calendar for a PTSA-sponsored GetReady training on Thursday, January 24, 7 to 9 p.m. in the Kreps Conference Center (next to the east parking lot). Please let us know you are coming by sending an email to info@getready94925.org or by calling 927-5797. For more information or other class times, see the website: www.getreadymarin.org.

National Merit Recognition

Redwood has recently received notification that three of our seniors, Elizabeth Kamai, Marissa Lambert, and Susanna Nordrum, have been named **National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists**. Of the more than one million students who took the PSAT/NMSQT last October, less than one percent were named Semifinalists. Students selected as semifinalists will continue in the program, applying for designation as Finalists and becoming eligible for Merit Scholarships.

The following students scored in the top 5% of all students nationally and have been named **Commended Students** in the National Merit Scholarship Program: Eleanor Baney, Emilie Futterman, Leigh Goodrich, James Lasky, Alex Lin, Max Mosher, Akio Noda, Sam Reese, Emma Rothschild, Jared Shenson, Jacqueline Snell, Paul Spurzem, and Rebecca Weinstein.

Congratulations to these exceptional seniors on their outstanding performances!! ■

From Our Angle

The math department would like to thank the following families for their generous donations to our math classrooms. We are truly fortunate to have the support of such a thoughtful and caring community. Donations were received from the families of Matt Cadelago, Gabe Zeiff, Kristina Parsons, Danny Lechner, Olivia Lee, and Hailey Inciardi. The math department gratefully accepts donations of AAA batteries and tissues, especially now that the winter months are upon us!

The gift giving season is coming soon and many of you may be planning to purchase a new graphing calculator for your student. If that is the case, the math department would like to request that you bring the proof of purchase from the calculator packaging to any math teacher. We can redeem the proofs of purchase for new technology items for our classrooms.

This month I would like to share information on the new math elective class, Topics in Modern Mathematics. The semester thus far has been full of new and challenging experiences for my students and me! On November 7, we had two guest speakers from the Army Corps of Engineers discuss with us how they schedule complex jobs using computer systems. This talk followed units on graph theory in



which we explored efficiency, optimal routes, and schedules. We are also looking forward to a visit by a Senior Vice President of Ghilotti Brothers Construction. At the end of October we started discussing different voting methods, which corresponded nicely with the elections. We have also talked about what makes a fair vote and how people can be represented fairly. To finish the semester we will learn about fair division and apportionment within the Electoral College. The unique thing about this course is that students can enroll for one or both semesters.

The topics in the second semester are discrete from those taught in the first. Second semester topics include chaos theory, cryptography, identification numbers, and growth and symmetry, just to name a few. If your junior or senior is looking for a class that directly applies mathematics to daily life, this may be the class for him/her.

Anyone interested is welcome to contact or visit me for more information.

– Heather Curtaz ■

November Drawing Results

Parents generously contributed to the November Faculty Staff Appreciation Drawing. Donations included tickets to the San Francisco Symphony, the Marin Speakers series, the Orpheum production of *The Color Purple*, a Herbst Theatre performance, and a UC football game. Gifts included Paperwhite designer pillows, gift cards to Picco, Buckeye Restaurant Group, Rulli, California Pizza Kitchen, The Cheesecake Factory, Trader Joe's, Il Fornaio, PF Chang's, Pacific Catch, Left Bank, REI, Book Passage, and a designer floral arrangement.



We'd like to acknowledge November's contributing families: Lita and Mike Hoffmann, Jean Leutwyler, Andrea Hong and James Parsons, Ruth Dell, Scottie and Karl Spurzem, Ana and Peter Huson, Jan Dutton and Fred Rinaldi, Sharon and Robert Staley, Hope and Jon

Kragh, Molie Malone and Chris Wheaton, Paula and Steve Johnson, Monica and Daniel McGue, Carolyn and Doug Grey, Barbara and Jim Gossel, Anne and Mark Slater, Gayle and Maurice Palumbo, Anne and Erik Gilberg, Ginny and Bert Sandell, Andria Langenberg and Lyle Shlager, Wendy Tonkin, Janie and Mark Newman, Alison and James Carbone, Sue DeVinny and Paul Finkle, Brian and Marcia Bidwill, Robin and David Breuner, and Katherine and Bill Post.

Donations for sports, performing arts and other event tickets, even last minute tickets, as well as gift cards to your favorite store or restaurant are accepted throughout the year for the monthly Redwood staff drawing. Please drop off your gift to Peggy Bogason, Principal Nancy Neu's assistant, or contact us.

Ann Gordon
APGordon@aol.com
789-0726

Susan Livingston
livingston.susan@comcast.net
461-8570 ■

Hello from Parent to Parent Connection!

At our October meeting, Dr. Virginia Bassi spoke on Social and Emotional Challenges and Solutions for Students with Learning Disabilities. Parents walked away with some great tips, strategies, and insights. Dr. Bassi underlined the importance of fostering each student's ability to self advocate.

Here are some of the highlights from her talk.

- Everyone just wants to be loved.
- Learning challenges or differences may lead to emotional distress.
- Teach your children to self advocate. Do not feel that you must always rescue them. Help them develop problem solving skills.
- Sincere interest is MORE effective than praise.
- Emotional health can actually enhance the performance of children with learning disabilities.
- Social-emotional skills are critical to overall development and require a systematic approach that empowers children.
- Focus on childrens' strengths, interests, and skills.
- Communicate your confidence in your children and their future.
- Mistakes happen. Use these as a learning experience and opportunity to teach.

Each high school in the district has a Peer Resource group which is headed by a faculty or staff member. The purpose of Peer Resource, (at some schools called Link Crew or Ignite), is to help ease the social transition to high school. Please contact Tara Donoghue, tdonoghue@tamdistrict.org for more information.

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.

1/16/08

What's Next? Four-Year Colleges for Students with Learning Issues: Which ones to pick, how to get in; everything you wanted to know about four year colleges but were afraid to ask, with Jane McClure



2/9/08

Bound4College: Parent/Student Saturday Workshop, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; space limited; register at p2p@tamdistrict.org. REGISTRATION CLOSED AS OF 11/2/2007.

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.

We hope you will be able to join us for our first meeting of 2008, on Jan.16. This is one of our most well attended meetings, as Jane McClure has years of experience as an educational consultant, successfully placing kids in appropriate colleges.

As usual, we will open each 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) ■

Volunteers Continue Campus Improvement



Many thanks to the Campus Improvement volunteers who worked at the theater entrance and planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs around the west parking lot. Parent-student teams included: Annmarie and Daniel Lechner, Catherine, Elizabeth and Caroline Way, Robert, Nan and Matt Foster, Marsha and Ross Friedrich, Charlie and Marissa Lambert and Helen Korniewicz, as well as Cathomas Starbird, Maija Norstad, Lindy Flemming, and Everett Austin. If you couldn't join us in November, no worries. The bulb planting effort will continue in earnest on January 12. Bring your gloves, trowels, and knee cushions to help prepare our campus for a festive spring bloom.

Students earn Community and School service hours, and are credited the hours worked by their family members as well.

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 – TBA;

March 15 – TBA;

April 19 – TBA;

May 10 – The Amphitheater/South Lawn ■



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 winter sports schedule.

December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 PLAN Test for Sophomores SAT Test Drama: <i>One Acts</i> LTH, 7 p.m.
2	3 9th & 10th Grade Class Officer Election	4 Drama: <i>One Acts</i> LTH, 7 p.m.	5 Symphonic Band: Off Campus, 7 p.m. Drama: <i>One Acts</i> LTH, 7 p.m. Benchwarmer's Mtg, Rm 112, 7 p.m.	6 Student/Teacher Luncheon Financial Aid Night, Library, 7 p.m. Drama: <i>One Acts</i> LTH, 7 p.m.	7 Campus Tour Kreps, 8 a.m. Drama: <i>One Acts</i> LTH, 7 p.m.	8 ACT Test Drama: <i>One Acts</i> LTH, 7 p.m.
9	10	11 Link Crew: Cocoa & Cram 6-9 p.m., Library Board of Trustees Mtg., Kreps, 7 p.m.	12 Pigskin Mtg, Rm. 120, 7 p.m.	13	14	15
16	17	18 Final Exam – 1st Period	19 Final Exams – 2nd & 3rd Periods ALTERED SCHEDULE – out at 12:50	20 Final Exams – 4th & 5th Periods ALTERED SCHEDULE – out at 12:50	21 Final Exams – 6th & 7th Periods ALTERED SCHEDULE – out at 12:50	22
23	24 WINTER RECESS until January 8, 2008	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Teacher Work Day NO SCHOOL	8 Pick-up Class Schedule in Gym, 7:30 a.m. Spring Semester Begins	9 Concert Band, Symphony Band LTH, 7 p.m. Pigskin Mtg. Rm. 120, 7 p.m. Benchwarmer's Mtg. Rm. 112, 7 p.m.	10 PTSA Mtg. <i>Understanding Teen Girls</i> Kreps, 8:30 a.m. Jazz Band, LTH, 7 p.m.	11	12
13	14	15 Board of Trustees Mtg., Kreps, 7 p.m.	16 Band's Performance Workshop LTH, 7 p.m. P2P, Kreps, 7 p.m.	17 Band's Performance Workshop LTH, 7 p.m.	18 Campus Tour Kreps, 8 a.m.	19
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day NO SCHOOL	22	23	24 Club Day at lunch Get Ready Marin Kreps, 7 p.m.	25	26 SAT Test
27	28 Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL	29 Board of Trustees Mtg., Kreps, 7 p.m.	30 Senior Grad Product Sales Rm. 120 4 to 7 p.m.	31 Link Crew Luncheon		

THE REDWOOD POST

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)

Redwood High School

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and visit the PTSA website at www.redwoodptsa.org

DEC. 2007 – JAN. 2008

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!