



THE BIG BHS BACK-TO-SCHOOL PTSA MEETING *Thursday, September 17th*

Welcome all new 9th grade families, and welcome back to all our returning families! We hope everyone had a fantastic summer and is ready for a challenging and productive year. On Thursday, September 17th, from 7 to 9 PM in the Florence Schwimley Little Theater (FSLT), the Berkeley High PTSA will be hosting it's first PTSA meeting of the year. This first meeting serves as a great introduction to what is happening at Berkeley High. The elections for the School Governance Council (SGC), the Berkeley Schools Excellence Project (BSEP) Committee and the PTSA Board will all be held on this night – not only is this a great way to find out what these groups do for the school each year, but you will also meet and hear from all the parents & guardians who are hoping to work on them. There will also be a welcome from Principal Slempp, followed by a question and answer session. And – this is the meeting where, every year, the PTSA hopefully inspires a new generation of parents & guardians to join us in helping to support our students in the most productive ways possible.

Elections: There are three organizations for which we will be holding elections.

- **School Governance Council (SGC)** – The SGC decides questions of school policy. From a policy standpoint, this is the most powerful committee at Berkeley High. During the past year, the SGC dealt with a wide range of program proposals aimed at addressing the achievement gap
- **Berkeley Schools Excellence Project (BSEP)** – The BSEP committee determines how the school will spend its enrichment money. In light of the State's recent cuts to education, this committee's decisions become even more important.
- **The PTSA** -- The PTSA facilitates a variety of forms of communication between the high school and the parent/guardian community, puts various committees together to advocate for students and their families, and hosts a variety of forums on topics of interest to the Berkeley High community.

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BUEN DÍA

¡Bienvenidos! Es el comienzo de un nuevo año escolar, y es importante que desde un principio todos trabajemos unidos para el beneficio de nuestros estudiantes. La idea de escribir esta columna en Español en la Hoja Informativa de PTSA es para mantener a todas nuestras familias Latinas al día con información referente a la escuela, los recursos que se ofrecen, y los eventos y oportunidades que las familias tienen para participar en la escuela. Por motivos de espacio, es muy difícil tener toda la información de BHS traducida en Español pero intentaremos mantenerles al día con la información de mayor importancia para nuestra comunidad.

En Berkeley High y en la ciudad de Berkeley en general, contamos con muchos recursos para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes y familias. Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para hablarles acerca de algunos de estos recursos que les pueden ser útiles durante el transcurso del año escolar. Si sus estudiantes tienen dificultades con sus estudios, la escuela cuenta con programas de tutoría en las tardes. También, el *BHS Development Group* patrocina periodos de tutoría

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WELCOME TO BERKELEY HIGH!

Every year in the summer newsletter we run a column with information on how parents and guardians can best navigate Berkeley High. Below are our updated, whole-school suggestions on how to make sense and best access resources at Berkeley High.

1. **Read this Newsletter carefully.** The PTSA Newsletter is mailed home approximately every six weeks during the school year — it is packed with long-term information. The PTSA works closely with the administration to produce the paper, which is paid for by the families of Berkeley High. Please help fund the newsletter by joining the PTSA.
2. **Sign up for the two school-wide ETREES.** The PTSA has two etrees: the Berkeley High School etree ("BHS etree") and the "PTSA etree". The BHS etree is an invaluable list serve that posts the Student Daily Bulletin, The College Advisor's

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A PTSA Request To Please Donate To **THE BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

Berkeley High has the benefit of an absolutely amazing fundraising group – the Berkeley High School Development Group (BHSDG). This incredibly dedicated group of parent volunteers has raised over two million dollars in the past five years alone.

While the grants, scholarships and financial awards from the BHSDG have had a big impact on the overall education of Berkeley High's students over the past several years, the importance of the BHSDG in the current economic situation has grown significantly. The State's budget cuts to education over the last two years have had a devastating impact on every school in California, Berkeley High included. It is now more important than ever for those of us who are in a position to contribute financially, to do so. Whether it's ten dollars or ten thousand dollars, if everyone contributes to their ability this year, the benefits for our children will be huge.

The PTSA hopes that all families will take a moment to consider the sizable needs of Berkeley High at this time of severe budgetary setbacks and make a contribution today. Please see the enclosed materials from the BHSDG for more information and instructions on how to contribute. Thank you very much for your support!

Mark van Krieken, PTSA President

Please Join The PTSA Today!

We absolutely need everyone at Berkeley High to join the PTSA. Your PTSA dues go towards funding all of our communication outlets – the PTSA Newsletter, the BHS etree, the PTSA Website, the PTSA Organizer, the PTSA Directory, the PTSA Homework Site and a variety of college handbooks. The PTSA Newsletter alone costs \$13,000 a year to produce. If everyone joins, we'll have a wonderful year keeping you up to date on everything. Last year only 10% of BHS households joined, so we very much need more members this year. Please enclose your tax-deductible contribution today in the PTSA membership envelope included in this summer packet. We love to keep you informed and you love to be informed, but we can not do it without your financial support. You can join for as little as \$10, but if you are able to contribute more, please do (it's always appreciated). Thank you very much in advance!

Mark van Krieken, BHS PTSA President

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

There are many roles the PTSA will need filled for the upcoming 2009 – 2010 school year, but one of the most pressing and important is the need for a new editor for the PTSA Newsletter. The Newsletter is the only regular outlet for communication that reaches every BHS household and, as such, provides an invaluable link between the school and the BHS community. The PTSA Newsletter is published approximately once a month and includes articles supplied by the BHS administration, the PTSA and various school and community groups. One of the big bonuses of the job is that you get to meet with Principal Jim Slemp and PTSA and other parent leaders on a regular basis -- you'll be one of the most well-informed people in the school. Although some experience with desktop publishing is certainly useful, it is not necessary, as we will provide training to anyone who needs it. We also have a wonderful support staff of three already in place and ready to help.

If you are interested in the position, or have any questions, please contact PTSA President, Mark van Krieken at markvk4@comcast.net. The Newsletter is one of the most significant contributions the PTSA makes to the BHS community each year, but we very much need your participation to ensure its continued success.

Mark van Krieken, BHS PTSA President

SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY POTLUCK PICNICS

All small learning communities (small schools & programs) have their own picnic,
& parents of each will be notified of the date, time, and place in the near future.

Principal Jim Slemp

FROM THE COLLEGE ADVISORS

Ilene Abrams has left Berkeley High School after six years of wonderful service to our students. We all miss her already and wish her the best. Elisabeth Sandberg is joining us this year in the College Center as a College Advisor. She has been at Berkeley High School as a guidance counselor for the past eight years working with students in CAS, SSJE, BIHS, and AC. We are very lucky to have her as a counselor on the College advising staff.

A few words on standardized testing

Standardized testing is controversial. Some colleges find it convenient to have a single test help them decide which students to accept, even though many admissions officers have told me privately that they know how deeply flawed the testing process is. Even data from the College Board, which runs the SAT tests, shows that the strongest correlation is between test scores and family income – the higher the family income, the higher the SAT score. And testing is particularly difficult for students whose first language is not English.

Now, more than 815 colleges have become “test optional,” meaning that they do not require students to submit their ACT/SAT as part of their admission application. For a list of such schools, go to <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>. One school, Sarah Lawrence College in New York, even refuses to consider any standardized testing scores when selecting students for admission.

However, we live in a world where the UC’s and many Cal State campuses, as well as many other colleges and universities, continue to require students to take standardized tests. Most students who prepare for the tests can increase their scores by using the ACT/SAT test preparation book to practice and learn testing skills.

Here are some additional ways to prepare for the tests:

- Enroll in an SAT or ACT preparation class. Free SAT classes are available at Berkeley High during both fall and spring semesters, sponsored by UC Berkeley’s People’s Test Preparation Service. Classes are usually held twice per week – one day for math preparation and one for critical reading. Information on the dates the classes will be held this fall will be available in the College Advisor’s Bulletin and the Student Daily Bulletin after school starts. No registration is necessary. There are many private tutors and test preparation companies as well. If you have questions about one or more of these, please ask your student to talk with his or her College Advisor.
- Take practice tests. There is a free SAT practice test available at www.collegeboard.com. Also at the same website, your student can sign up to have the “Question of the Day” sent directly to his or her email. For the ACT, go to www.actstudent.org for free practice questions.
- Free ACT and SAT test prep is also available at www.number2.com.
- There are numerous books available in the College/Career Center with practice tests and helpful hints to help students prepare.

Differences between the SAT and the ACT

All colleges in the U.S. will accept either the SAT or the ACT.

Some colleges will also accept the ACT in place of both the SAT reasoning test and the SAT subject tests. However, the UC’s require either the SAT or the ACT with writing AND two SAT subject tests in two different subject areas.

There are several differences between the two tests.

1. The SAT consists of three sections – Critical Reading, Math and Writing. The total test time is 3 hours and 45 minutes. The ACT consists of four sections – Math, Science, Reading and English, as well as an optional Writing section. (The UC’s require the writing section, while the Cal States do not.)
2. The SAT calculates a student’s score by adding up the number of correct responses and subtracting a percent of the wrong responses. This means that a student must eliminate some of the answer choices in each question in order to make it worthwhile to guess an answer. The ACT calculates scores by adding up only the correct responses. There is no penalty for guessing.
3. The SAT is considered a reasoning test while the ACT is an achievement test, meaning that the ACT questions are based on what a student has learned in school. Many test prep tutors have told me that the SAT is “trickier” and thus more coachable, while the ACT is more straightforward.
4. Starting with the class of 2010 and thereafter, College Board, like ACT, will allow students to choose which sitting’s scores to send.

FOR SENIOR FAMILIES

Evening meetings for parents/guardians of seniors (please note that these are TENTATIVE DATES):

Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Berkeley High School library, we will be giving an overview of the college admission process. Although some of the information will be a repeat from our presentation last spring, we will go into more depth in many areas. Please come to get all of your questions answered. (Note, this date will be finalized in September.)

Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Berkeley High School library, representatives from the UC’s, Cal States, community colleges and California private colleges will provide an overview of the many options available for your children.

Other important dates:

Wednesday, September 23: The completed Senior Profile is due in D221. This form is for students who are considering applying to private schools and some out of state public schools that require a counselor recommendation. It is not needed for students who are only applying to UC’s, Cal States or community colleges. For students applying Early Decision or Early Action, the form is due on **September 4**. The form is available in D221 or at <http://bhs.berkeley.net/index.php?page=documents>.

September – December: We are fortunate to have over 100 college admissions representatives come to Berkeley High. Encourage your seniors to attend their presentations. Most

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College Advisors – cont. from page 3

college recruiters are the first ones to read student applications from the areas to which they travel, so it's good for students to know who they are and for the representatives to have a face to go with the application. The schedule of presentations is posted in many classrooms, and we announce all visits in the College Advisor's bulletin and Student Daily Bulletin. Students need to sign up in advance and get signed authorization from the teacher whose class they are missing.

We will be making presentations to all senior English classes at the beginning of the year. After that, seniors can sign up for individual 30 minute meetings with their College Advisor. Please encourage them to do so. We will also have drop-in appointments for short questions at lunch and after school. During the meetings we will discuss each student's application choices. In California, there is a formula for determining whether students are eligible for the UC's or Cal States. If they are not eligible based on their grades and test scores, they will not get in. Other colleges do not base admission on a formula. We will always encourage students to apply to their dream school. However, students must remember that they might not be able to get into their first choice college because they might not meet the requirements of that particular school or simply because the school has more qualified applicants than they can accept. There are many schools, not only the most well-known, where students will get a high-quality education and meet people who will be their friends and colleagues for the rest of their lives. So encourage students to investigate less known schools. Today's unknown school could be on the "hot" list in a year or two.

October 1-November 30: Priority application period for the California State Universities. Most campuses are requiring students to apply on line (www.csumentor.edu).

November 1-November 30: Application period for the UC's. Online applications are strongly encouraged (www.ucop.edu/pathways).

September-November: We will be holding the following workshops for students: Early Decision/Early Action, filling out UC and Cal State applications and the Common Application, writing college application essays and filling out financial aid forms. Please encourage your students to attend the workshops. Dates and times will be available in the College Advisor's Bulletin and on our website.

Please also encourage your students to start writing their essays early so that they will have time to revise. These essays are not easy to write and the UC's require each student to write two essays. Students need to be their own best advocates without appearing whiny or arrogant. They need time for reworking.

Upcoming Test Dates:

ACT (www.actstudent.org)	
Test date	Reg. Deadline
Saturday, September 12	August 7
Saturday, October 24	September 18
Saturday, December 12	November 6
SAT and SAT subject tests (www.collegeboard.com)	
Test date	Reg. Deadline
Saturday, October 10	October 1
Saturday, November 7	September 9
Saturday, December 5	October 30

How parents can help:

The college application process is different for each student and family. For most, it is a growing experience, a time for self-evaluation and growth. By allowing students to lead the process, we can help them mature and be ready for the next step after high school, whatever that may be. Let your students take charge of the process by asking them what you can do to help. Here are some recommendations:

- Parents can help by buying file folders and a box to hold them, sending test scores to colleges and standing in line at the post office to mail applications. If they would like your help in organizing, show them how to make a chart of deadlines for applications and financial aid as well as a time line for completing them. We will give students a blank chart to get them started.
- Have an honest talk with your student about what you can afford to pay for college. Be sure you also understand and discuss strategies for financial aid. By having this talk early in the application process, you can prevent disappointment later if schools do not offer enough scholarships and loans. Also encourage your student to apply for private scholarships.
- Discuss with your student the importance of choosing schools based on learning style, social and cultural interests, and possible majors – among other things. Don't let name brand competitiveness or rankings dominate their thinking.
- Since the college application process is often stressful, it is important that it not be the main topic of conversation every day. Some families have set up a once a week check-in time that gives students control while allowing parents to understand what is being accomplished.
- Let students fill out their own applications. You may proofread them before they are sent.
- Encourage your students to see their College Advisor to discuss problems or concerns.

For a college's view of the parent/guardian role in the college application process, go to www.mit.edu, then click on admissions, freshman, info for parents, and helping your kids through this process.

FOR SOPHOMORE AND JUNIOR FAMILIES

Please let your students know that the work they do during these years is very important for both college admission and college success. Encourage them to do their best. We will start meeting with juniors at the beginning of second semester. Help your students find extracurricular activities that they enjoy.

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Wednesday, October 14: The PSAT is given at Berkeley High. Students must bring their photo ID's. This test is excellent preparation for the SAT for sophomores and juniors. Also, the PSAT test results of juniors are used for selecting National Merit semi-finalists. Information on how to sign up for the test will be available in the School Bulletin and College Advisor's Bulletin toward the end of September.

We recommend that all sophomores and juniors take the PSAT on October 14 to prepare for the SAT. The results from this test, usually available in December, can help students plan how to prepare for the SAT. Juniors should take either the SAT or the ACT during the spring of their junior year. If they are planning to apply to UC campuses or any other schools which require SAT subject tests, we recommend that they take at least two subject tests (they are one hour long each) in May or June of the junior year. Juniors who are not satisfied with their test scores will have time to study over the summer. The UC's and many other schools require that students complete their testing by December of their senior year.

Finally, encourage your students to get a good night's sleep on Thursday and Friday before the test and to eat a healthy breakfast on Saturday morning. Remind them to bring bottled water and an easy to eat snack to keep them from getting too hungry during the nearly four-hour test. And most important, remind them that these tests are not a measure of their intelligence nor do they predict how successful or happy they will be in college or there after. Help them to keep their scores in perspective and to focus on all of their many strengths and talents and the ways that they contribute to the world around them.

There is also a pre-test for the ACT called the Plan. This test has not been offered at Berkeley High School in the past, but we are currently working on providing students with that pre-ACT test option. Dates for the Plan will be publicized in the College Advisor Bulletin, Daily Bulletin and the etree.

Angela Price

CUTS. The much anticipated BUSD budget cuts have been finalized for the coming school year. The administration had hoped the district state-induced deficit would be offset by the federal stimulus money. Unfortunately, despite the federal money, that was not the case. Berkeley High will lose 1.5 custodians, two clerical workers, two counselors, one vice principal and six teachers. The district is planning to retain an average class size of 27 to 29 at the high school level. However, the school will be staffed at its lowest projected enrollment—currently 3,171 students. In the past we have staffed for the highest enrollment, which occurs in September and October. Traditionally, after that point the number of students begins to decline. As a result the administration is expecting class sizes to be larger than the projected average throughout the fall.

SCHEDULE CHANGES. In an effort to adapt to the cuts, the school will no longer accept requests for a change of schedule after registration week, August 24 to 28. Additionally, there will be no registration makeup on August 31 or September 1, the Monday and Tuesday before school starts on Wednesday, September 2. Please note, as in the past, the request for a change of schedule is accepted only if the school has made a mistake in the scheduling process—not if a student has changed his or her mind. Counselors will be available August 24 to 28 to talk to students who spot a mistake in their schedule.

MISSING REGISTRATION. If your child absolutely cannot come to registration, you may send a proxy to pick up their schedule. The proxy should either be the parent or come with a written note from the parent and a contact phone number. The student, or someone authorized to make changes, should be available by phone when the proxy picks up the schedule as—if there IS a mistake—the counselor will need to talk in order to resolve the issue. The proxy can turn in forms and purchase a school organizer. Unfortunately, the proxy cannot have a picture ID taken which is a necessary step in getting a locker and checking out textbooks, both of which will happen during registration. Students who are not here for registration will have to complete these tasks on Monday, August 31 or before school, during lunch and after

school on Wednesday, September 2 starting at 7:30 a.m. Monday is the teachers' picture day and they will have priority in line. Please expect long lines on Wednesday as well.

Counselors will not be available to talk to students the first few weeks of school. After that, they will be available by appointment only. Counselors will be available during registration.

Registration days:

- Freshmen, Monday, August 24
- Sophomores, Tuesday, August 25
- Juniors, Wednesday, August 26
- Seniors, Thursday, August 27
- Makeup Day, Friday, August 28

Please look on the label of your summer packet envelope to find your student's assigned time. The envelope also contains the student ID number. Please bring it.

REGISTRATION ROUNDUP. For students who are new to Berkeley High, a lot happens during registration. Picture IDs are taken, forms turned in, free and reduced lunch forms handed out, student organizers sold, lockers assigned, and class schedules distributed. In addition, freshmen will meet with administrators and be given school tours by upperclassmen.

All students should bring the following items with them to registration:

- \$3 for the BHS Organizer.
- All the forms (emergency, healthy, photo, etc.), filled out.
- The envelope in which it all came. The envelope contains the student ID number necessary for a picture ID.

Freshmen should report to the Community Theater at the beginning of their session. Parents do not need to come to orientation. However, if you wish to be there, we will have chairs set in the Jacket Gym. A good (and subtle) way to be there for your child is by volunteering the day your child registers. Registration is a huge production and we will be needing lots of help. Watch the etree for details.

MATH PLACEMENT EXAM. Incoming 9th graders who registered with the

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BERKELEY HIGH'S FUTURE SCHEDULE CHANGE

Berkeley High is in the process of making a series of major changes in the effort to address the achievement gap. One of the main changes is the anticipated move to a different daily schedule of classes for hopeful implementation in the fall of 2010. On May 28th, Berkeley High's "Scheduling Committee" presented a very informative public forum on scheduling options for Berkeley High. The forum was hosted by Principal Jim Slemp, Superintendent Bill Huyett and a variety of parent, student and staff members of the Scheduling Committee.

Future Public Forums: In the past several months, the committee has so far visited three different California high schools, each utilizing a different model for scheduling classes. The committee plans to visit two more schools in the fall before determining which model would best meet the needs of Berkeley High's students. As part of the public process, the Scheduling Committee plans to host two more public forums, both for disseminating information and for gathering public input, before making a final decision and seeking School Board approval in October. The dates for the forums and School Board have not yet been announced.

The First Three Models: The three scheduling models presented at the meeting were:

- 1. Granada High in Livermore.** Granada High uses a "5 by 3" model that has five 70 minute periods a day and three trimesters (as opposed to BHS's current six 55 minute periods in two semesters). The advantages are many fold as students would have 15 courses over the course of the year (instead of the current 12), and could take advantage of the broad range of courses BHS offers and take some more "fun" electives during the course of their high school experience. A class covering two trimesters in Granada's schedule is given a full year's course credit by the UC system (or the same credit that a full year semester class gets credited at BHS by UC), thereby freeing students up to try some different classes. Many AP classes could be scheduled as year-long classes and have increased time automatically built into the course. Advantages for addressing the achievement gap are that students who are struggling would now have more in-class time to learn the subject matter, and would only need to focus on homework for 5 classes at a time, as opposed to six. Certain classes could go year-long and provide for more time during the course of the year for students to master the subject matter. For teachers, they would be able to better address the needs of more students now that their student load would be reduced from approximately 140 to 112. They would also have more prep time to prepare for their students now that they would teach four out of five periods, as opposed to teaching five out of six classes in the current structure. One disadvantage is that it would be slightly more expensive to implement due to the need to hire more teachers to cover the switch of teaching four out of five classes instead of five out of six. Teachers would be teaching 80% of the school day, as opposed to the current 83%.
- 2. Franklin High near Sacramento.** Franklin High uses a "4 by 4" model that offers four 90 minute periods a day over the course of four quarters (instead of two semesters). This structure allows for 16 classes over the course of each school year, again allowing for a greater variety of classes for students over the course of each year. For children who are struggling academically, it would again allow for more concentrated instructional time with each subject, while reducing the number of classes (and homework) they have to juggle at any one time. For teachers, they would now be responsible for approximately 84 students during any particular grading period, allowing for a tremendous increase in their ability to create more individualized approaches for each student, and to establish stronger personal relationships with each student. A number of studies show that around 80 students is the optimal number for a high school teacher. Some potential obstacles for this approach are keeping continuity through-out the school year in certain subjects (i.e. math, music, language), timing with AP and SAT tests (some year-long classes ending in January and comprehensive tests being given in May), and a significant increase in cost. Teachers would be teaching 3 out of 4 classes instead of 5 out of 6, which would mean teachers would be teaching 75% of the workday as opposed to the current 83%. The number of teachers the school would need to hire to make up the difference would have a considerably larger financial impact than what is needed for the "5 by 3" model.
- 3. Deer Valley High School:** Deer Valley High appears to use a hybrid model with some classes being offered every day for 50 minutes and other classes being offered every other day for 104 minutes. Since the Scheduling Committee had only just visited this school the day before the public forum, they were not yet ready to give a presentation of the possible benefits and shortcomings of the model. This model will be fully explained at the next public forum in September. Principal Slemp did say that committee members left this site visit very enthused about what they had seen.

The "Binder": For anyone that is interested in more information, there is a thick binder containing all the information the Scheduling Committee has looked at and used, that is being kept in the office of Richard Ng, the Principal's Administrative Assistant. The binder is available to everyone in the BHS community. If you would like to take a look, please see Richard Ng in his office, directly adjacent to the Principal's office, and they will be more than happy to give it to you for reading (in the office). If you would like copies of anything in the binder, just ask Richard and they'll be happy to accommodate you.

Committee members were very open about their early enthusiasm for the "5 by 3", which was shared by many of the parents in attendance. We strongly encourage all parents to attend the two future Scheduling Forums.

*Mark van Krieken
BHS PTSA President*

SUMMER CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Berkeley High has amazing teachers, a dedicated staff, and the best students—all superlative. But there is one other factor that sets our school apart: a community that comes through for its children. In hundreds of ways, the families of Berkeley have consistently squeezed out precious hours from their day to support their children and our school. This year, that help is needed more than ever.

The beginning of the school year is a wonderful time to be on the Berkeley High campus. There is the hustle & bustle of new beginnings and fresh starts, new outfits and new teachers, and a chance to watch students excited (they really are!) to be back on campus. But the hustle & bustle could easily turn into chaos without help.

Below is a list of volunteer needs over the next month. Please look it over and see if there is some way you can fit in a few hours to help set Berkeley High on its way. If you can help, contact our Volunteer Coordinator Janet Huseby at jhuseby@pacbell.net or, if you do not have Internet access, by phone (510) 527-1130.

1. Registering. Registration runs from Monday, August 24, to Friday, August 28. Picture IDs will be taken, forms collected, and schedules, lockers and textbooks distributed. We need a minimum of 15 volunteers in the morning and the afternoon: 8:45 to noon and 12:45 to 3:45 p.m. I am actually aiming for 20 each shift. Because this is before school and teachers will not be on campus, temporary parking permits will be available. Great fun as you will be connecting with hundreds of students!
2. First Day Makeup. On the first day of school, Wednesday, September 2, we need a minimum of 12 volunteers at 7:30 a.m. and six during lunch (11:15 to 12:15) to help with kids who missed registration.
4. Census Takers. For the first nine days we will need four or five volunteers each day to collect attendance records from classes during 2nd and 3rd period (9:30 to 10:30 roughly). Explanation: At the beginning of the year, some classes are over enrolled and others are under enrolled due to "no shows." But classes cannot be shifted or increased until it is confirmed that the "no shows" really have not shown. To do so, attendance must be carefully collected and recorded. This job is VERY important and gives you a chance to visit many classrooms
5. Runners. We will need "runners" throughout the day the first few weeks to deliver schedule changes to students who have put in schedule change forms. Explanation: The last day students may put in a schedule change request is Friday, August 28. Students must attend all classes on the schedule they picked during registration (no matter how off or wrong). Counselors will get back in touch with them as fast as possible by sending runners with the new schedule to the classes found on the old schedule.
6. A yearlong job: **The Front Desk**. The Front Desk is run by volunteers who take a regular 1.5 hour shift on a weekly basis. This is a **great** job—as last year's volunteers will attest. We are looking for two volunteers per shift each shift Monday through Friday: 8:30-10 a.m., 10:00 -11:30 a.m., 11:30 -1p.m., 1- 2 p.m., 2 -3:30 p.m. Working the front desk is an excellent opportunity not only to help the school by extending a friendly welcome, directing traffic, answering phones, and doing small administrative tasks, but also to find out who's who at Berkeley High. If you can help on any of these times, please let me know at jhuseby@pacbell.net.

Janet Huseby, BHS Volunteer Coordinator

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2009-2010 BHS STUDENT DIRECTORY

For four years, the BHS PTSA has published a directory with contact information for BHS staff and programs and for those students and families who have elected to be listed. (*In the summer packet you will find a release form. Your child must turn in this form in order to be included in the directory.*) We're still looking for volunteers to help coordinate the preparation and publication of this essential communications tool for the 2009-2010 school year as well as help with data entry in September.

Here is what is involved:

June - July: Prepare listing election forms for inclusion with the student registration mailing.

August - September: Collect student/family listing election forms and coordinate the input of student/family listings and the update of listings for BHS staff and programs.

September - October: Coordinate sales of sponsorship spaces on directory covers; finalize staff, services and student sections of the directory; arrange for printing.

November: Coordinate distribution of printed directory.

This is a volunteer job that you can do on your own time which provides tremendous benefits across the entire school community. Also, if you have ideas about how the directory might be improved, this would be the perfect opportunity to implement them. The volunteers who started this effort no longer have students at BHS but have given generously of their time to provide "institutional memory" and other forms of back-up assistance to those of us carrying on this important school resource. If you are interested in helping with the Directory, please e-mail Rebecca Herman at mcherman@pacbell.net. Thank you!!

Rebecca Herman

Band & Orchestra Fund Raising Committee

The BHS Band and Orchestra have been invited to attend the 4th Annual Los Angeles International Band and Orchestra Festival - June 19-23, 2010 in the prestigious Walt Disney Concert Hall as well as performing at Disneyland. As part of the festival's educational activities, the students attend a workshop with wind band and orchestra professionals. In formal and informal group settings, BHS students socialize with and listen to other participating high schools and colleges. Karen Wells sees that the "just for fun" sides of the trip - Disneyland and other sites of interest - will offer the students a way to celebrate what they have accomplished and achieved through their effort, commitment, and development. Pending BUSD Board approval, parents will continue fund raising throughout the summer and the 2009-2010 school year. There will be an information night for all Band and Orchestra parents Sept. 15, 2009. If you are interested in fund raising, please contact Susan Jones-Szabo at sjoneszabo@yahoo.com and www.world-projects.com for more information about the festival.

Denise Hingle

THE BHS PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

The Parent Resource Center (PRC) would like to welcome back our Seniors, the 9th grade Freshmen Class, Sophomores, Juniors, parents, teachers, administrators and staff for the 2009 – 2010 school year. We hope each family had a wonderful summer. The Parent Center is entering its tenth year on site at Berkeley High School. Its main goal is to address and serve the needs of All BHS parents and their families. Special emphasis is placed on addressing the need of engaging disenfranchised parents, especially parents of color into the school's decision making process, as well as helping them to navigate the educational system at the high school.

The Parent Center is a place where parents can come and feel welcome, have a sense of belonging and be reassured that their ideas, concerns and issues are valued. It is a safe environment for growing, learning and connecting where parent and student voices are heard. The Center provides an array of services, they include; parent/student advocacy, resources/referrals for parents and students, discount student Bart tickets, bilingual translation and drop in availability.

It inspires students to be focused and respectful. The Center also stresses the importance of education and working together for both parents and students. Student services include; the Positive Minds Mentoring Program, student emergency fund, school supplies, assistance with academic support and Life skills workshops. Workshop announcements will be posted to the BHS e-tree and in the Parent Resource Center.

The beginning of the school year is an opportunity for all to get involved, to roll up our sleeves and get busy. Berkeley High is a very large school and a vast array of services is needed to ensure the success of all students. There are many areas within the school where volunteers can get involved and participate in some kind of way. Remember we all bring something to the table and one person can indeed make a difference. Parents can serve on several committees at BHS including; School Shared Governance Committee (SSGC), Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), Berkeley High School Development Group (BHSDG) and the Principal Advisory Committee (PAC). Volunteer opportunities

are also available in the following areas; Parent Center, College Career Center, BHS Greeters, Parent Leadership Councils, Faculty Luncheon Committee, and many other areas in the school.

Bart Tickets: Bart ticket orders will be taken for two days during the last week of each month except September, November, December and June. Ticket orders for September will be taken on September 3rd and 4th, November ticket orders will be taken on the 23rd and 24th and December ticket orders will be taken on the 10th and 11th. Tickets are returned from Bart by FedEx to BHS within 5 to 7 workdays. Students are notified of ticket arrival and pick-up time through the Student Daily Bulletin and the e-tree. Ticket price is \$16.00 for a \$32.00 value ticket. Cash only!

The Parent Center is located in Room D-224 on the 2nd floor of the Main Administration Building, 1980 Allston Way. Hours of operation are: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm daily. To contact the center please call (510) 644-8524. Please stop in to visit your Parent Center. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Irma Parker & Simon Tiles

School Notes — *cont. from page 5*

Berkeley Unified School District after April 20th and did not take the mandatory math placement exam will need to take it on Wednesday, August 26 in room H303 at 2 p.m. (Enter through the D-building at the corner of Allston Way and Milvia St.)

This exam will be used to place students in honors or recommend students for a support class.

Calculators will not be used and students need bring only themselves. While most 9th graders will have picked up their schedules prior to the exam (orientation/registration is August 24), counselors will automatically adjust the schedules of those students who get into honors, without any need for further action by the student. Questions can be directed to co-lead teacher Amy Burke (amy_burke@berkeley.k12.ca.us).

LATE START DAYS and NEW BELL SCHEDULE. This year, every Monday will be a "late start day" giving students an extra hour and a half of sleep and teachers the same time to wrestle with the challenges of implementing of the School Board approved

Advisory for the 2010-2011 school year— among other things. The Monday late starts have resulted in a revised bell schedule. Please note that since the Student Organizer went to press the schedule was changed slightly. The correct bell schedule is to be found in your summer packet.

HISTORICAL NOTE. As a community we will be hearing a great deal about advisories in the coming year. The advisory is not a new concept at Berkeley High as Principal Slep recently pointed out to his staff. In 1917, retired BUSD school superintendent S.D. Waterman published *A History of the Berkeley Schools*. This book, of great historical interest, has recently been scanned by Google Books and may easily be found on line (Go to www.books.google.com and type in History of the Berkeley Schools.) On page 33, Waterman extols the merits of an Advisory system then in place at Berkeley High. His description is not that different from what will be implemented next year, though currently there is no plan to separate the boys from the girls as was the custom a century ago.

EDLINE AND POWERSCHOOL. This summer the BUSD is changing its student tracking system by moving to Powerschool.

The new software incorporates the parent access features formerly available in Edline. When Powerschool is up and running, information and trainings will be available to help families understand the tools for tracking their student's attendance, grades and class assignments in the new system. Edline will be discontinued.

RETIREMENTS & CHANGES. With great regret we announce the retirement of history and economics teacher Doug Powers and jazz band leader Charles Hamilton. Each, in his own inimitable way, has played a significant role at Berkeley High teaching and nurturing hundreds of students. They will be missed. Counselor Elizabeth Sandberg will join Angela Price in the College Center as our second college counselor replacing Ilene Abrams who left the district in June to take a position in Oakland. Bill Gaebler, a teacher in the PE department and long time Water Polo coach, has been named Athletic Director. Vice Principal Uri Skowronski will join CAS as a science teacher. Finally, the school is in the process of hiring 15 new teachers.

GOOD NEWS. BHS's Average Daily Attendance (ADA) rate in the 2008-2009 school year was between 91 and 92%

Cont. on page 11

Buen Dia – cont. from page 1

gratis en muchas asignaturas. Para aquellos estudiantes y familias que quieran comenzar a planificar el proceso de aplicación para las universidades contamos con el Centro Universitario y Vocacional (*College Career Center*) donde tenemos información y folletos de muchas universidades. Nuestras consejeras les pueden ayudar con el proceso de selección de universidades y con el proceso de aplicación a ellas.

Berkeley High también cuenta con un Centro de Recursos para Familias (*Parent Resource Center*). El Centro sirve de conexión con la escuela para muchas familias. Nuestros objetivos son incrementar la participación y la voz de las familias en la escuela, su entendimiento del proceso educativo y los recursos que se ofrecen en BHS y en la comunidad. El Centro vende boletos de BART con un descuento para estudiantes, y realiza talleres y reuniones educativas para las familias de Berkeley High durante el año escolar. Venga y participe.

También existe PTSA, la Asociación para Padres, Maestros y Estudiantes. PTSA es otra avenida de participación para las familias en la escuela. La primera reunión del año será el jueves 17 de Septiembre, de 7pm a 9pm en el Little Theater de la escuela. Durante esa reunión tendremos elecciones de los miembros a los comités de PTSA, School Governance Council (SGC) y Berkeley Schools Excellence Project (BSEP). No se olviden que su participación en la educación de sus estudiantes, tanto en casa como en la escuela, es de vital importancia y estos comités les brindan una oportunidad de participar en el proceso de toma de decisiones en la escuela.

DEPORTES: Si su estudiante desea participar en algunos de los deportes de otoño, las pruebas para los equipos comienzan el lunes 17 de Agosto. Los requisitos para poder participar son: 1) estar inscrito en Berkeley High o en Estudios Independientes; 2) tener un promedio GPA mínimo de 2.0 durante la primavera del 2009; 3) y haber completado el Paquete de Participación Deportiva (*Athletic Packet*) incluyendo un examen físico firmado por un médico.

COMITÉ PARA RECAUDACIÓN DE FONDOS PARA LA BANDA Y ORQUESTA DE BHS: Tendremos una reunión informativa para todas las

familias de estudiantes participando en la banda y orquesta el día 15 de Septiembre del 2009. Si esta interesado en ayudar a recaudar fondos para este programa, favor de contactar a Susan Jones-Szabo en sjonesszabo@yahoo.com.

COMITÉ BSEP: Este año BHS recibió mas de \$710,000 en fondos de BSEP para ser utilizados en programas escolares para el próximo año escolar. Los fondos ayudan a cubrir de manera total o parcial programas como: un coordinador para servicios de apoyo; programas de tutoría en las tardes: las consejeras en el Centro Universitario y Vocacional; El programa ELL para estudiantes que están aprendiendo Ingles; Coordinadores para el programa de Intervención de OCI para los grados 9 y 10; la Corte Estudiantil; el Centro de Recursos para Padres; entrenadores; coordinadora de padres voluntarios, y muchos mas. Si desea obtener mayor información acerca de BSEP, favor de contactar a Allen King, allenk@mindspring.com, 510-501-3307.

CORTES DEL PRESUPUESTO: Debido a los cortes del presupuesto, BHS perderá a 1.5 custodians, dos empleados de oficina, dos consejeras, un subdirector y seis maestros. El tamaño de las clases se mantendrán entre 27 y 29 estudiantes por clase.

SOLICITUD DE CAMBIOS A LOS HORARIO DE CLASES DE LOS ESTUDIANTES: En un esfuerzo para adaptarnos a los cortes presupuestarios, la escuela no aceptara solicitudes para el cambio de horarios de clases después de la semana de inscripción, del 24 al 28 de Agosto. Y por favor, sepa que las solicitudes para cambios de clase son aceptadas para corregir errores que la escuela ha cometido con respecto al horario de un estudiante, y no porque a un estudiante no le gusten sus clases. Las consejeras estarán disponibles del 24 al 28 de agosto para ayudar a los estudiantes que necesiten cambiar sus horarios.

DIAS DE INSCRIPCIONES: Grado 9, lunes 24 de Agosto. Grado 10, martes 25 de Agosto. Grado 11, miércoles 26 de Agosto. Grado 12, jueves 27 de Agosto. Día de recuperación, viernes 28 de Agosto. Favor de revisar el sobre en el cual usted ha recibido esta información para ver la hora que se la ha asignado a su estudiante. El sobre también contiene

el numero de ID de su estudiante. Favor Para los estudiantes que son nuevos en de traerlo también porque se necesita para la foto de la ID escolar. BHS, el día de inscripción es un día muy ocupado. Se toman las fotos para las IDs, se entregan todas las planillas, se asignan los armarios a los estudiantes, se venden las agendas estudiantiles y se les entregan los horarios de clases. De manera adicional, todos los estudiantes del grado 9 se reúnen con el personal administrativo. Ellos se deben reportar al Teatro comunitario al comienzo de su sesión. Durante los días de inscripción todos los estudiantes deben traer: \$3 para la agenda, todas las planillas ya llenadas (de emergencia, de salud, fotos) en su sobre. Los padres no tienen que venir al día de orientación. Pero, si quieren venir, tendremos un área en el gimnasio donde se pueden sentar a esperar.

NUEVO HORARIO DIARIO: Este año, las clases comenzaran mas tarde todos los lunes. Los estudiantes tendrán una hora y media adicional para dormir, mientras los maestros se preparan para implementar los clases de Asesoría o *Advisory* para el año escolar 2010-2011. Esto también ha generado un cambio en el horario diario de clases. Usted debe recibir el horario diario de clases correcto en este paquete informativo.

ETREES: PTSA tiene dos servicios de etrees: el etree de Berkeley High School ("BHS etree") y el de PTSA ("PTSA etree"). El etree de BHS tiene información como el Boletín Estudiantil Diario, el Boletín de las Consejeras Universitarias, noticias, notificaciones y oportunidades para voluntarios. El etree de PTSA reporta información referente a posibles cambios en la escuela, uso de alcohol y drogas, seguridad escolar y otros asuntos de importancia para la comunidad de BHS. Si desea obtener mayor información acerca de los etrees, o como suscribirse a los mismos, favor de ver la información en la pagina 12.

Nuevamente, bienvenidos y no se olviden, su participación en la escuela y en el proceso educativo de su hijo/a es de mucha importancia para ellos, para ustedes, y para la comunidad Latina en Berkeley High.

Simon Tiles

Big Back-To-School PTSA Meeting (& other PTSA News) — *cont. from page 1*

These committees and organizations are among the most meaningful ways to get involved at Berkeley High, and we encourage all parents who are interested in getting involved to consider running. If you would like to be on the ballot, please submit a short personal statement (no more than 200 words) to PTSA President Mark van Krieken at markvk4@comcast.net. Explain what office you are running for and why you are interested in serving in this position. Please include your phone number and address so that the PTSA can contact you; this information will not be made public. Alternatively, you may mail or hand-deliver your statement to BHS PTSA, 1980 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704, Attn: Elections. Please also include your neighborhood category (if known) and the program(s) or school(s) at Berkeley High in which your child or children are enrolled.

For more information on each of these committee/organizations, please feel free to contact Allen King, BSEP Committee Chair at allenk@mindspring.com or 510-501-3307; Denise Abrams, SGC parent member at dabrams@kazanlaw.com or 735-7963; and Mark van Krieken, PTSA President at markvk4@comcast.net or 510-848-6406.

PTSA Focus & Goals for 2009-2010:

Last year, the main goal of the PTSA was to get increased information out to parents about the changes being proposed for Berkeley High's overall academic structure, and to facilitate avenues of input for parents regarding those proposed changes. We also hosted several evenings to start a public

discussion about student drug and alcohol use at BHS. In the coming year, the PTSA will continue to follow the ReDesign process closely (as the school's Schedule Committee continues to examine different scheduling models), and to work with the school and District to establish a more well-defined approach to dealing with drug and alcohol issues.

The main goal for the PTSA in the coming year is to support Berkeley High and the District's efforts to address the achievement gap. Berkeley High has a very significant achievement gap and we strongly agree with Principal Slep's statement that, "To do nothing is unacceptable!" While the school works extremely well for many students, the current model is clearly not working overall. There are some very exciting options out there and we encourage all parents and guardians to stay as informed and involved as possible in the ReDesign process. With Superintendent Bill Huyett having expressed his commitment to making the achievement gap his top priority, the PTSA is looking forward to working closely with the District. BHS staff, parents and students of Berkeley High to make a real difference in this area.

Parent/School communication and parent education have always been strong traditional roles for the PTSA and those will continue to be a big priority for us:

- **Continued Production of all PTSA-sponsored Communication** – The Newsletter; the etrees; the PTSA Website; the PTSA Organizer;

the Directory; and various college guidebooks.

- **Parent Education Series** – A series of seminars, workshops and guest lecturers was started with evenings this past April and June. Future evenings will deal with Alcohol & Drugs; homework & stress management; dealing with issues of race; etc.
- **Parent Outreach** – A stronger effort to bring in a more diverse active membership in the PTSA and involvement within the school.
- **Student & Parent Advocacy** – Help facilitate student/teacher communication and parent/teacher/admin communication when students and parents feel they need it.

But! – no matter how good the ideas and goals are, they are only as good as the people who work to reach them. We can only go after as many goals as we have groups of parents and guardians willing to work on them. **We need your involvement to make a better Berkeley High!** As we did last year, we have some fantastic leadership lined up, but we absolutely need your participation if we are going to have a big impact for our children.

We hope you will join us for what should be a very informative and productive evening.

Sincerely,

Mark van Krieken
BHS PTSA President

ALERT!! -- NEW THIS YEAR!!! -- CHORUS CLASS AT BHS!

For the first time in several years students have the option of taking an accredited class in Chorus during the school day. The class will cater for both experienced and beginner singers. To take advantage of this opportunity you MUST SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THE TWO CLASSES ON YOUR REGISTRATION DAY or call up the Berkeley High School Front Office at 644-6120.

Our excellent and highly-regarded new Chorus Teacher, Scott Dailey, will be directing the Jazz Lab Bands and Jazz Ensemble as well as Chorus. In 2008/09 Berkeley High established a Chorus Club to help fill the gap of the missing choral music program. You can see their work with Trelawny Rose on YouTube under Berkeley High Sings! How the Chorus Club will work to support and expand on the new classes is still being planned.

On Sunday August 23rd there will be a picnic meeting of the BHS Chorus Club so students and families can have a chance to meet Mr Dailey before Registration. Everyone welcome. For more information about the picnic, watch for etree notices, or contact Fiona Hamer at thefionahamer@hotmail.com or 510 486 8192. Thank you to all the students, parents, teachers and community members who showed their support for the return of Chorus to Berkeley High.

Marv Ford

Welcome To Berkeley High – *cont. from page 1*

Bulletin, news, notices, and volunteer opportunities. The PTSA etree reports on potential changes to the BHS academic program, student drug & alcohol use, student safety and other issues of concern to the parent community. The moderators of both etrees work closely with the administration to provide as much accuracy as possible.

For more information about the two school-wide etrees and the small school etrees, and how to subscribe to them, please see the accompanying article on page 12.

3. How to Manage the BHS Etree: The “BHS etree” sends out an average of five messages a day. It is a lot. Experienced readers learn they do not have to open all of them as the contents for each message are clearly stated in the subject line. Other readers manage the volume by having postings sent directly to a folder and then checking the folder once a day. (The PTSA etree only sends one or two posts per week.)

At the bottom of each etree message there are three links. One is to the etree website, one connects you to the PTSA website (see below), and the last, most useful, connects you to the etree archives. The archives contain every etree posting since April 2004—including the one last week with the vital information you already forgot...

3. Subscribe to the Jacket. The students of Berkeley High produce an award-winning student paper packed with information and insight. It is distributed free to students on a biweekly schedule and mailed home to subscribers. Subscriptions cost \$60 per semester and \$85 for a full year. Full sponsorships are \$250. If you would like to subscribe, send a check made out to the Berkeley High Jacket to Berkeley High Jacket, Business Manager, 1980 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

4. Volunteer. There is nothing like being on-site—if only for an occasional hour or two. There are many opportunities to volunteer: Registration, the first weeks of school, mailings, the Athletic Fund, the Development Fund, test monitoring, chaperoning dances or field trips, helping in the library. Volunteer opportunities are posted on the etree (see above). If you see a chance to help, take it. You will take away more than you give.

5. Attend the PTSA meetings. The meetings are packed with information and are a great place to network. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, September 17th in the Little Theater. This meeting is particularly important — not only to hear from Principal Jim Slemp, but to vote for representatives to the important BSEP and School Governance committees (see below).

6. Serve on a committee. There are two important school-wide committees at Berkeley High. The **Berkeley School Enrichment Project (BSEP) Site Committee** spends over half a million dollars annually raised by a special city parcel tax. Our college counselors, the Parent Access office, the Afro Haitian dance drummer, Volunteer Coordinator and algebra tutors are just a few items paid for by the site committee. The **School Governance Council** spends some money but more importantly makes policy decisions for the school. On the agenda this year is deciding how to implement an Advisory Program next year. Both committees are composed of teachers, students, administrators and elected parent/guardians. Elections for parent/guardians are held during the first PTSA meeting of the year. Please plan on attending—if not to run, then to vote. Elections are held at the first PTSA meeting of the year (see above.)

7. Use the Internet. There are two main BHS websites; one run by the school, the other by the PTSA. The PTSA website, managed by parent Matt Wong, is excellent and updated often. It carries the bell schedules, student daily bulletins, teachers' email addresses, BHS Safety Committee info, BHS ReDesign updates and analysis, and athletic information including team schedules, news and more. In addition, each of the small schools and programs has created a site. Finally, there is the Parents of Teens, not affiliated with the high school but useful nevertheless.

Please note that most of the small schools operate a list-serve, similar to the PTSA's etrees, which sends out news and notices of particular interest to their community. Directions to subscribe to the individual etrees may be found on their websites.

BHS: bhs.berkeleypta.org &
<http://bhs.berkeley.net/>

BHS PTSA: bhs.berkeleypta.org
Academic Choice:
<http://bhsacademicchoice.com/>

BIHS: <http://berkeleyihs.org/>
AHA: aha.bhs.berkeleypta.org
CAS: www.cas.bhs.berkeleypta.org
CP Academy: www.bhscpa.org
SSJE: ssje.bhs.berkeleypta.org
Parents of Teens:
parents.berkeley.edu/subscribers.html

8. Contacting a teacher, counselor or staff member. There are three ways to contact a teacher, counselor, or administrator: email, phone, or note. Notes may be left in the Teachers' Boxes which are located just across from the Front Desk. To leave a phone message, call the front office (510) 644-6120 and you will be connected to Voice Mail. Teacher & Staff email addresses can be found on the PTSA website (see above.) A shortcut to most staff addresses is: Firstname_Lastname@berkeley.k12.ca.us

9. Financial Support. Giving money (and time) is always important. There are three main school-wide organizations that need your financial support: The Berkeley High School Development Group, the Athletic Fund and the PTSA. The Development Fund supports a wide-variety of activities from the Health Center to teacher grants. The money the BHSDG raises makes an enormous difference at the school. The Berkeley Athletic Fund purchases equipment and uniforms for the more than 1,000 students involved in the 17 sports. The PTSA focuses on communications (this newsletter, for instance) and hospitality.

Janet Huseby

School Notes – *cont. from p.8*

percent. A few years ago the ADA was 83 to 84%. For those new to the district, public schools receive state money based on the ADA. If a student is absent—even if excused by the parent or guardian—the state docks the school for the missing class time. Please aim for 100% attendance!

Finally, Newsweek Magazine ranks public schools according to a ratio that divides the number of Advanced Placement, Intl. Baccalaureate and/or Cambridge tests taken by all students at a school by the number of graduating seniors. The 1,500 schools on the Newsweek list represent the top six percent of public schools. Within that group, this year, Berkeley came in at number 266. Better than the year before and the year before that!

Janet Huseby, BHS Volunteer Coordinator

-- Stay Informed! --

SUBSCRIBE TO BERKELEY HIGH'S ETREES

Berkeley High has a number of invaluable etrees, keeping parents informed on a wide range of topics of interest to them. The two school-wide etrees are the two PTSA etrees – the Berkeley High School etree (“BHS etree”) and the PTSA etree. To stay fully informed about Berkeley High, we strongly encourage everyone to subscribe to both of these wonderful resources.

BHS Etree: This mainstay of Berkeley High’s list-serves posts the Student Daily Bulletin, The College Advisor’s Bulletin, news, notices, and volunteer opportunities. The etree is moderated by parent volunteers Diane Douglas, Marguerite Fa-Kaji, and Pat Anderson who work with the Berkeley High administrative team to provide as much accuracy as possible.

To subscribe to the BHS etree, send a blank email (no ads or signature lines) to bhs-request@idiom.com with one word only in the subject: subscribe. If you have any difficulty subscribing, please email bhs-owner@idiom.com for assistance.

BHS PTSA Etree: In addition to the BHS etree, the PTSA operates its own etree. Whereas the BHS etree acts as a community bulletin board, with a steady stream of daily announcements, the PTSA etree (with one or two posts a week) generally focuses more on coverage and analysis of key issues affecting Berkeley High (i.e. proposed programmatic changes, student alcohol & drug usage, student safety, etc.). The PTSA etree is moderated by PTSA President Mark van Krieken, who consults with BHS staff,

the superintendent and the School Board to provide as much accuracy as possible.

To subscribe to the PTSA etree, please send an email to subscribe@bhs.aerionet.net (and leave the subject line and body of the email **blank**). If you have any difficulty subscribing, please contact Mark van Krieken at ptsa@bhs.aerionet.net.

Small Learning Community Etrees: Almost all of Berkeley High’s small schools have their own etrees – each with information tailored to the activities and news of their own programs. Once again, we highly recommend that you subscribe to the small school etrees that apply to your family. Directions to subscribe to the individual etrees may be found on the following websites:

Academic Choice: <http://bhsacademicchoice.com/>

BIHS: <http://berkeleyihs.org/>

AHA: aha.bhs.berkeleypta.org

CAS: www.cas.bhs.berkeleypta.org

CP Academy: www.bhscpa.org

SSJE: ssje.bhs.berkeleypta.org

If you include your email address when joining the PTSA, your info will be automatically forwarded to both PTSA etrees (although it will be much faster to follow the instructions above).

Mark van Krieken, BHS PTSA President

ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO JOIN A CLUB

Or A Sport, Or A Dance Class, Or . . .

Many people have commented over the years that, with the amazing variety of academics, sports, performing arts and clubs, Berkeley High very much reminds them of a small (or perhaps not-so-small) college. And just as in college, one of the main objectives of every student is to make good friends and acquaintances. Because of its size, Berkeley High can seem a little overwhelming, but also because of its size, you can rest assured that there are always a bunch of kids who share the same interests as your child does. The trick is in finding those other like-minded kids. We’ll have more info at the PTSA meeting.

Mark van Krieken

FALL 2009 SEASON TRYOUTS START MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2009

Requirement before trying out:

1. Enrolled at BHS or Independent Studies
2. Minimum GPA of 2.0 from Spring 2009
3. Completed Athletic Packet* -- including Physical signed by physician

Cross Country: Coaches - Brian Bort and Laura Jewett -- BHS Track, time to be

Field Hockey: Varsity Coach - Latinder (Jack) Singh -- BHS Turf, time to be announced.

Football: Varsity Coach - Alonzo Carter -- BHS Football Field, time to be announced

Golf, Girls: Varsity Coach - Frank Haskell -- Tilden Golf Club, time to be announced

Tennis, Girls: Varsity Coach - Mark Chrisler -- King Tennis Courts, time to be announced.

Volleyball, Girls: Varsity Coach - Lisa Busbee-Young -- Donahue Gym, time to be announced.

Water Polo, Boys & Girls: Girls Water Polo Coach - Bill Gaebler -- Boys Water Polo Coach - contact Bill Gaebler -- BHS Swimming Pool, times to be announced

* Athletic Packets available in the Athletic Directors Office & at the BHS Front Office.

MK Murlas, Berkeley Athletic Fund