



## REVISED BHS REDESIGN PLAN APPROVED BY SCHOOL BOARD

On February 11, 2009, the BUSD School Board approved Superintendent Bill Huyett and Principal Jim Slemp's recommendation on the Redesign Proposal. The new recommendation addressed many of the concerns expressed by both BHS parents and teachers over the past several months and seemed to represent a comfortable compromise for both sides of the debate.

### In short, the Superintendent and Principal recommended to the Board:

- Implementation of late-start Mondays for professional development for BHS teachers in the fall of 2009.
- Implementation of "regularly scheduled" advisories in the fall of 2010.
- Development of a new schedule that will provide such benefits as "additional offerings, academic support, personalization and better student and teacher working conditions." [It goes on to state that these benefits need to be "balanced against the issues of cost and instructional time."]
- The development of a seventh small school to be implemented in the fall of 2010 or 2011.

The 8 period, 4x2 alternating block schedule, with the resulting 23% or higher reduction in instructional time in subject classes, is not part of the recommendation. The community access time segment of advisories is also not a part of the new recommendation.

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## STAR TESTING

The STAR test will be given to all 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade students Tuesday, April 21 through Friday, April 24. We expect all students to participate in the test and to give her/his best effort. It is important that we have full participation because the STAR test has a direct impact on our school. Federal legislation requires all schools attain a participation rate of 95% or better on the STAR. Failure to achieve this benchmark could unreasonably label our school as "underperforming" and move us into "program improvement" status. Program Improvement places us in a position where the state could progressively reduce our autonomy by prescribing specific curriculum and professional development for our staff. In addition, the school could lose a significant amount of federal funding should we not meet the requirements. If you have any questions about the STAR test please contact Vernon Walton at 644-4569.

*Vernon Walton, BHS Vice-Principal*

## BUEN DÍA

### Información de las Consejeras Universitarias

*Noche Informativa de Ayuda Financiera para el Grado Once:* Jueves, 2 de Abril, 6:30-8:30pm en la biblioteca de BHS.

*Planes para el Verano:* Este es un buen tiempo para comenzar a planificar para el verano. Los estudiantes pueden trabajar o participar en actividades extracurriculares o académicas. Existen muchos programas disponibles para estudiantes, tanto en California como en el resto del país. También existen becas para cubrir los costos de muchos de estos programas. Si desea ver una lista de los programas de verano disponible, favor de visitar la página de internet <http://bhs.berkeley.net/index.php?page=summer-programs>. También tenemos muchos folletos disponibles en nuestro centro, en el salón D221.

### Noticias de la Ceremonia de Graduación

Debido al incremento de los costos de la ceremonia de graduación, no será posible para BHS brindarles a los estudiantes que se gradúan dos boletos gratis para la graduación. Este año, los dos primeros boletos costarán \$10 y cada boleto adicional costará \$15. Aquellos estudiantes que tengan dificultades para comprar los boletos deben hablar con sus consejeras al respecto. Si tienen alguna pregunta, favor de comunicarse con Vernon Walton llamando al 644-4569. Adicionalmente, el número de sillas

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families:

As we plan for online scheduling in March, and to ensure that we are being helpful with that process, we have the following information to share with you.

By now all of you should have received your student's unofficial transcript which was mailed home mid-February. This transcript will show the courses that your student has taken while they have attended Berkeley High School and the grades that were received. Each semester class is worth 5.00 credits for a total of 30 credits per semester and 60 credits per year. Some classes might be listed as 2.50 credits which means your student received a Quarter's worth of credit for that class. If your student has earned less than 60 credits per year, they will need to look into summer school or night school to be able to graduate.

In addition to credits that are earned, there are specific requirements for graduation as well. These may be found on page 10 in the Student Planner. If your student needs the planner, they are at the front desk in the main office. The graduation requirements may also be found online at [www.berkeleypta.org/catalog/introduction](http://www.berkeleypta.org/catalog/introduction).

The next step of the scheduling process is as follows:

- March 2-13<sup>th</sup> there will be online scheduling for next year in English classes, course catalogs will be given out at that time. They are also available in the Counseling Center and online at the above address.
- The school will mail home your students' course requests.
- March 16<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> there will be counselors in the computer lab in the library after school from 3:30-5:00 pm to make any changes to your student's original on-line scheduling choices if necessary.
- If there are changes to your student's program placement a letter will be sent in April stating their placement for next year.

We feel that getting students off to the right start and helping families is one of the most important things that we can do. We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Jim Slemp  
Principal

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Berkeley High students are fortunate to have a comprehensive range of academic support services at their disposal. Listed below are the various programs available. For a list with a more detailed explanation of the programs, schedules and contact information, please visit the PTSA Website at <http://bhs.berkeleypta.org/index.htm>.

**Student Learning Center (SLC)** provides access to a computer lab, tutorials, & counseling services.

**Drop-In Tutorials:** This year, after-school teacher tutorials are open to all BHS students. Provides a large range of subjects covered.

**Academic Pathways (AP Project):** Academic support & tutoring services for under-represented students.

**Writer-Coach Connection:** Trained community volunteers provide one-on-one coaching support to students.

**Mentoring for Academic Success (MAS):** This program, run by the Multicultural Institute, provides after-school tutoring.

**RISE (Responsibility, Integrity, Strength, Empowerment):** Helps minority high school students succeed in school & in college.

**Y Scholars:** Sponsored by the downtown YMCA and UC Berkeley to prepare low-income and first-generation college-bound students for college.

**Early Academic Outreach Project (EAOP):** A UC sponsored program to help students from under-resourced communities prepare for college.

**Berkeley Scholars to Cal (BSC):** This is a long-term academic program for 40 scholars.

**Education Guidance Center (EGC):** University of California sponsored program designed to help low-income, first-generation students obtain a college education.

**English Language Learners (ELL)** Goal setting academic program for ELL students with GPA's lower than 2.0.

**Basic ELL Tutorial** Homework assistance.

**ELL High School Exit Exam Class** Period 7 class for graduating students.

**Outsiders Club:** After-school program emphasizing after school recreation and healthy lifestyles.

**Private Tutoring Resources:** Recommendations available on-line at [parents.berkeley.edu/recommend/tutors/](http://parents.berkeley.edu/recommend/tutors/).

*Christina Mitchell, Academic Support Services*

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## Biotech Academy Celebrates 15 Years at BHS!

*Is the Biotech Academy right for your sophomore?*

Hands-on science learning geared towards hands-on learners. Free tutoring and lab assistant in class, small class sizes. Job skills training like resume writing & job etiquette. Paid summer internship between junior and senior year at biotech and healthcare companies in the East Bay

100% graduation rate over the past 4 years—98% over 15 years!

More than 97% of graduates enroll in post-secondary education.

Applications are now being accepted now for the 2009-2010 school year. Pick up an application from Ms. Kavalier in G304 or Ms. Hansen in G305.

**Application due date:** Friday March 6, 2009

**Program Interviews:** March 11th-13th

Acceptance notices posted 3/18 in front of G305

For the past 15 years the Biotech Academy has helped hundreds of students at BHS get excited about science and prepare them for paid internships in collaboration with local nonprofit Biotech Partners ([www.biotechpartners.org](http://www.biotechpartners.org)). If you have questions about the program contact Marithess Rico at 510-705-4855.

*Aletha Zsido*

# FROM THE COLLEGE ADVISOR

## FOR SENIORS

This is a difficult time for many seniors. They have turned in their applications, but many have not yet received their acceptance letters. They will hear from most of their colleges in March and the beginning of April. Many students come to the College/Career Center seeking reassurance that they will be accepted to a college. They feel that decisions about their future are in other people's hands. It is very anxiety producing to feel so out of control of one's own destiny. Please support and encourage your children. The bottom line is that they will have options. In the end, the decision of one college will not make or break their futures. Let them know that you have confidence in them.

### Financial Aid follow-up

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS – our scholarship box is now overflowing with applications for scholarships which are available to Berkeley High students. Many of these are for Berkeley High or Alameda County students only. Some students have told me that they are signed up with [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and other scholarship services. While these services are excellent, they do not have information on many of the local scholarships we have available. In addition, the scholarships they offer are generally to a national pool, while the ones in our box are generally less competitive. Please encourage your students to check the box once a week as new scholarships are coming in regularly. The complete list is also available at <http://bhs.berkeley.net/index.php?page=scholarships> , which is updated regularly.

SENIORITIS – Senior grades matter. Please remind your students to work hard in their classes and keep their grades up. They will be very sad if their lack of attention to their coursework now results in a letter from their college of choice rescinding their admission this summer.

## FOR JUNIORS

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION NIGHT – Thursday, April 2, 6:30-8:30 pm in the BHS library. Sue Kim, a financial aid expert, will explain how financial aid is calculated for both public and private schools and answer your questions. She will also provide information on merit aid.

If you are looking for helpful, down-to-earth information on the college admissions process, I highly recommend *Admissions Matters*, by Sally Springer and Marion Franck.

Ms. Price and I began meeting with junior English classes at the beginning of February to give an overview of the college application process. We have discussed "Why college?" at the beginning of each class. They have come up with many wonderful reasons – such as earning more money (a graduate of a four year college will make on the average \$1.1 million more in their lifetime than a high school graduate), having more options for satisfying jobs, the joy of learning, networking, making lifelong friends, meeting people from around the U.S. and the world, and study abroad and internship opportunities. We have given each student a packet of information including a list of factors to help them think about what is most important to them in choosing a college. We will be discussing these in more depth in our individual meetings.

If your student has not signed up for an individual meeting with one of us, please encourage him or her to do so. Students in CAS and AHA, students in AC with last names beginning with A through K and students in IHS in the blue house (who have Ms. Sandberg as their counselor) will meet with me; those in CPA and SSJE, in AC with last names starting with L through Z and students in IHS in the green house (who have Ms. Werd as their counselor) will meet with Ms. Price. You are welcome to come to the meeting, as long as your student feels comfortable with your attending. We are hoping that all students will meet with us, whether or not they are planning to go to college. We have many resources on career choices available as well. Students should sign up for the meetings themselves because we want to encourage them to take responsibility for their future plans. We are also available for drop-in appointments to answer short questions at lunch and after school every day or students can send questions via e-mail.

Please encourage your students to use all of the resources of the College/Career Center. We have books to help prepare for the SAT and ACT, numerous college catalogues and many guidebooks to help them locate colleges that meet their educational and social needs, as well as a large section on careers. Again, remember that the best bet for all students is to apply broadly – schools that are more selective and those that are less selective but offer a quality education. In addition, we strongly recommend that students apply to private colleges as well as California public schools. Although private schools look more expensive at first, they have many more dollars for financial aid. In the end, what your family pays for college may be less at a private college than a public one because the financial support offered by the school may be more.

TESTING – All juniors who are considering applying to four-year colleges should take either the SAT or the ACT this spring. Students should take at least two SAT subject tests in two different subject areas if they are considering applying to a UC campus or any private school that requires them. All colleges will accept either the SAT or the ACT. By taking the tests this spring, students can see their scores and, if they wish, study over the summer and retake the tests in the fall. There are fee

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## College Advisor – cont. from page 3

waivers available from either me or Ms. Price for low income families for the registration fees for these tests.

<u>SAT Dates – register at <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a></u>			<u>ACT Dates – register at <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a></u>		
Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (extra \$22 cost)	Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (extra \$19 cost)
May 2	March 31	April 9 (by mail); April 14 (online)	April 4	February 27	March 13
June 6	May 5	May 15 (by mail); May 19 (online)	June 13	May 8	May 22

SPRING BREAK COLLEGE TOURS – Spring Break is a great time to tour colleges, whether locally or outside the Bay Area, because most colleges are in session. BHS students can talk with the college students and sometimes have the opportunity to sit in on classes. These tours are led by college students, so high school students can feel free to ask any question they would like. Check each school's web site to get information on the times and dates of the tours and how to sign up. Please encourage your students to tour a few colleges wherever they will be during spring break. For more information on how to check out colleges, go to <http://bhs.berkeley.net/index.php?page=documents> and click on "How to Research Colleges."

CLASS SELECTION FOR SENIOR YEAR – Many students, wanting to show colleges that they are taking a rigorous course load, choose too many AP, IB and Honors classes for their senior year. We recommend that students take no more than two AP or IB classes each year in subjects that they are interested in. Senior classes are more difficult and require more homework. In addition, seniors will have the extra work of applying to college first semester. Students will also want to continue their extracurricular activities and enjoy their last year in high school. We see many seniors who are very stressed out by the amount of work they have to do. Colleges do not like to see students dropping courses during their senior year and many will ask students to write a letter explaining why they made a change in the courses they are taking.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES – Juniors should have professional e-mail addresses to use in their communications with colleges. Admissions officers notice when they hear from [hotchick@yahoo.com](mailto:hotchick@yahoo.com) or [sexydude@hotmail.com](mailto:sexydude@hotmail.com). Please encourage your students to set up an e-mail account such as [firstname.lastname@gmail.com](mailto:firstname.lastname@gmail.com) and to check it regularly.

### **FOR ALL STUDENTS**

SUMMER PLANS -- This is a great time to begin making plans for the summer. Students can earn money or pursue an academic or extracurricular interest. There are numerous internships available and college campuses around the country host high school students in research and mentorship opportunities. There are often scholarships available to help you pay for these programs. We list some of these opportunities in the College Advisor's Bulletin as they come in, but they are too numerous to mention all of them. The complete list is available at <http://bhs.berkeley.net/index.php?page=summer-programs> and the list is updated regularly. Please also encourage your student to look through the many applications and brochures available in D-221.

As always, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Price via e-mail ([iabrams@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:iabrams@berkeley.k12.ca.us), [angela\\_price@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:angela_price@berkeley.k12.ca.us)) or phone (644-6804, 644-4576). For shorter questions, e-mail is the best way to reach us as we can respond more quickly than by phone.

*Ilene Abrams, [iabrams@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:iabrams@berkeley.k12.ca.us)*

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## Graduation News

Due to the increased costs for graduation, BHS will not be able to provide this year's graduates with two free tickets for graduation. This year the first two tickets for graduates will cost \$10.00 and any additional tickets will cost \$15.00. Students who have difficulty buying tickets should see their counselor. If you have any further questions please contact Vernon Walton at 644-4569. Also, disabled seating for graduation is limited. Students with family members or friends who require disabled seating should make arrangements in advance with the Student Activities Director at 644-4990. Only one person may accompany each disabled guest in the disabled seating area. Graduation will take place at the Greek Theater, Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Vernon Walton, BHS Vice-Principal*

## BHS Redesign – cont. from page 1

To see the complete version of the Superintendent and Principal's recommendation, please visit <http://www.berkeley.net/board-meeting-information/> and click on the February 11 "Packet" icon. The section of the document that deals with the Redesign proposal is on pages 42 through 48. Be sure to read the "Staff Recommendations" A through E highlighted in bold throughout these pages.

**Developing A New Schedule:** In speaking with Superintendent Huyett, the process of developing the new schedule would happen over the next 6 to 8 months, during which time the District would be working together with Berkeley High to "examine a variety of high school schedules offered in California comprehensive high schools." The Superintendent specifically wanted to stress part of "Staff Recommendation C" which stated that he and the Principal endorse "the concept of implementing a different schedule than the current six-period a day model, in order to (a) provide opportunity for more courses during the span of a year and (b) provide time on a regularly scheduled basis for advisory and academic support." There are many ways to accomplish this and there should be models that prove attractive. All program development would involve a more transparent and inclusive public process. For starters, the recommendation includes regular quarterly updates to the School Board.

**Updated PTSA Position Paper:** The PTSA wrote an updated position paper on the BHS School Governance Council's final Redesign Proposal which presented a position very similar to what was approved by the School Board. The new PTSA Position Paper is on the PTSA website at <http://bhs.berkeleypta.org/docs/redesign/redesign.htm>. It is worth reading in order to have a full understanding of the many issues involved. The only real difference between the Superintendent/Principal's recommendation and the PTSA's is the implementation timeline of a new schedule – the Superintendent is recommending the fall of 2010 while the PTSA recommended 2011. The PTSA would still recommend implementing one change at a time (for establishing better baselines against which to make future

evaluations and assessments), but there is time to have those discussions. The PTSA had no position with regard to establishing a new small school. Overall, we feel this is a recommendation with a lot of potential for positive changes.

**February 4<sup>th</sup> Public Information Forum:** On Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, the District, High School and the PTSA co-hosted their public information night on the BHS Redesign. After an hour of information given by the District on the achievement gap (plus other considerations) and an hour of information through an open question and answer period, over 80% of a large group of parents who had concerns about the SGC proposal nevertheless indicated through a straw poll vote that they could be comfortable supporting the compromise PTSA position and would be willing to consider significant changes to the Berkeley High program in the future, given supporting evidence for those moves. Most all Berkeley High parents favor addressing the achievement gap in a strong way. It was extremely encouraging for the future of Berkeley High to see such a large group of parents, so open to change.

**Becoming A United Community:** Now that a strong compromise with a more achievable timeline has been presented, it is the hope of the PTSA that both sides of the original debate can unite behind the Superintendent and Principal's new plan. The debate has often been very divisive, and has frequently been much more political than educational. On the one hand, it is important to understand that having concerns or even being totally against the Redesign plan does not mean that people don't take the achievement gap seriously. On the other hand, everyone also needs to understand just how devastating it can be for a child, or the parents of a child, who is struggling to get by academically. But it goes beyond just understanding – closing the achievement gap is going to involve the advocacy and participation of all parents. It's not fair to expect the parents of children who are struggling, to be the only ones fighting to make changes. Good changes need to be fought for together. Hopefully, with the process that is about to begin, with everyone's participation, we'll be united in support for future recommendations.

*Mark van Krieken, BHS PTSA President*

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## SCHEDULING

9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade students have already begun making course requests for next year (and Small Learning Community requests, if they are seeking to transfer). Students are making their requests online in the computer labs during their English class with the help of counselors. Families should have received a copy of the student transcript which they should review with their child.

After March 13<sup>th</sup>, when all BHS students have finished scheduling, a copy of your student's requests will be mailed home. Parents/guardians can check the requests that their student made and, if they so choose, have their student make changes during makeup scheduling. Makeup scheduling will take place 7<sup>th</sup> period every day from March 16<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> in G204, where counselors will be present to help.

*Uri Skowronski, BHS vice-Principal*

## Buen Dia – cont. from page 1

para personas discapacitadas es limitado. Favor de contactar a la Directora de Actividades Estudiantiles (644-4990) para realizar los arreglos necesarios. La ceremonia de graduación será el día viernes 12 de Junio en el Greek Theater.

**Exámenes STAR** -- Los exámenes STAR serán presentados por todos los estudiantes en los grados nueve al once desde el martes 21 de Abril hasta el viernes 24 de Abril. Esperamos que todos los estudiantes participen y que realicen un buen esfuerzo. Es importante que nuestra escuela cuente con una participación total por parte de nuestros estudiantes ya que los exámenes STAR tienen un impacto directo en nuestra escuela. Las normativas federales requieren que todas las escuelas tengan una tasa de participación del 95%. Si la escuela no alcanza dicha tasa, el estado nos puede colocar en la posición de "programa de mejoramiento". De ser así, el estado puede reducir nuestra autonomía al indicarnos un plan académico y de mejoramiento personal específico. De manera adicional, la escuela puede perder una cantidad significativa de fondos económicos federales si no cumplimos con estos requisitos. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a los exámenes STAR, favor de llamar a Vernon Walton (644-4569).

**Actividades Estudiantes** -- *Junior Prom* será el 28 de Marzo en Bayside Pavilion de Alameda. Los boletos esta a la venta en el salón D173. Los boletos comenzaron costando \$50 y su precio se incrementara \$5 cada semana, así que por favor compre sus boletos lo más pronto posible. Todavía estamos buscando personas para ayudarnos a supervisar el evento. Si usted está interesado en ayudarnos como voluntario, favor de contactar a Edith Jordan, 644-8990, [Edith\\_jordan@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:Edith_jordan@berkeley.k12.ca.us).

También queremos informales acerca de otros eventos de importancia. Este año tendremos la *3ra Semana de Servicio Anual*. Durante esta semana, los estudiantes organizan un día de

limpieza de la escuela, un día de tutoría, un día de Clubes, un día de donación de sangre, y al final de la semana, una celebración.

*MORP*, un evento patrocinado por los estudiantes del grado nueve, será en la cafetería durante la primera semana del mes de Abril. Todos los estudiantes de BHS pueden participar en este evento, pero todos los fondos recaudados son para la clase del grado nueve.

Finalmente, *Senior Prom*, el baile para los estudiantes del grado doce, será el 9 de Mayo. Les haremos llegar más información tan pronto como este disponible. Adicionalmente, si aun no han ordenado su toga y birrete, favor de llamar a Achiever, nuestro proveedor de togas y birretes, al 408-441-7200.

**Noche Educativa para Padres de Familia de PTSA** -- *Bridge The Screen Divide*, Miércoles 1 de Abril del 2009, 7pm a 9pm en la biblioteca de BHS. Sabemos que existen muchos asuntos relacionados con la tecnología, como los juegos de video, internet y los teléfonos celulares, que son una fuente de enojo y frustración en casa. Por eso les ofrecemos el taller *Bridge de Screen Divide* para ayudarles a entender como usted puede hablar con sus hijos acerca de estos asuntos y comenzar a construir una relación positiva alrededor de la tecnología. Todos los padres y tutores están invitados. Preferimos si usted puede confirmar su asistencia enviando un mensaje a [audrey12@comcast.net](mailto:audrey12@comcast.net) o [wluccas@sbc.net](mailto:wluccas@sbc.net), pero no es necesario.

**Solicitud de Clases para el Próximo Año Escolar** -- Los estudiantes de los grados nueve al once ya han comenzado a solicitar sus clases para el próximo año escolar. Los estudiantes están realizando sus solicitudes en internet durante sus clases de Ingles, con la ayuda de sus consejeras/os. Todas las familias deben de haber recibido una copia del *transcript* (historial académico) de su estudiante, indicando los créditos que el/ella ha obtenido durante sus estudios en BHS. Cada clase durante un semestre vale 5 créditos, para un total de 30 créditos por semestre y 60 créditos por un año escolar.

Luego del 13 de Marzo, cuando todos los estudiantes de BHS han terminado de solicitar sus clases, se le enviara a

casa una copia de la solicitud de su estudiante. Usted puede verificar esta información con su estudiante en casa, y si usted considera que es necesario, su estudiante puede realizar los cambios necesarios a la solicitud original. Estos cambios se podrán realizar durante el 7mo periodo desde el 16 al 27 de Marzo en el salón G204. Las consejeras/os estarán presentes para ayudar a sus estudiantes.

**Rediseño de BHS** -- El 11 de Febrero del 2009, la Mesa Directiva del Distrito Escolar de Berkeley aprobó la recomendación del Superintendente Bill Huyett y del Director Jim Slemp con respecto a la propuesta de rediseño de BHS. En resumen, las recomendaciones del Superintendente y el director fueron:

- La implementación de comenzar las clases más tarde los días lunes para permitir la capacitación profesional de los maestros de BHS a partir del otoño del 2009.
- La implementación de una clase de *Advisory* (Asesoría) en el horario regular de clases a partir del otoño del 2010.
- El desarrollo de un nuevo horario de clases que permita beneficios como el ofrecimiento de clases y programas adicionales, ayuda académica, personalización de los estudios, y una mejora de las condiciones de trabajo para los maestros y estudiantes.
- El desarrollo de una 7ma escuela pequeña, que será implementada a partir del otoño del 2010 ó 2011.

El horario de bloques alternativos, junto con el periodo de acceso comunitario no son partes de la recomendación. Si usted desea ver las recomendaciones del superintendente y del director, favor de visitar la página de internet <http://www.berkeley.net/board-meeting-information/>, y seleccione la información referente a la reunión del 11 de Febrero. La información pertinente a la propuesta de rediseño esta en las páginas 42 a la 48.

Muchas gracias

Simon Tiles  
*Centro de Recursos para Padres de BHS*, [stiles@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:stiles@berkeley.k12.ca.us), 644-8524

# FROM THE BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GROUP (BHSDG)

As this newsletter goes to print, the BHSDG and the BAF are busy with last minute preparations for the live and silent auction fundraiser: Berkeley High Live! 2009! This event was planned in response to the severe state budget cuts that are going to have an enormous impact on BHS. Both BHSDG and BAF raise funds to help cover the costs of programs, projects, and athletics at BHS where state and local funding fall short.

Josh Kornbluth, BUSD parent and Berkeley icon is on track to perform a special monologue, and a BHS Jazz Ensemble Combo including: Jonah Levine, James Gillum, Eric Shiboski, Forrest Mitchell, and Nick Lamb will provide the music

Berkeley Honda owner, Steve Haworth, was instrumental in making this event possible and gave so generously of his time and help to secure the many spectacular live auction items. We cannot thank him enough.

If you were not able to attend Berkeley High Live! and would like to support BHSDG and BAF, it's not too late. Please send your tax-deductible donation to:

BHSDG  
P.O. Box 519  
Berkeley, CA 94701-0519

The BHSDG is proud to support and fund so many important programs at the school. Since November the BHSDG has awarded the following grants:

## Student Support

After-School Tutorial Program – expanded to include Special Ed teachers, Independent Study teachers and more teachers in areas with significant numbers of struggling students

- Student Learning Center - Discretionary fund grant
- Life Academy - Mentors/tutors for Life Academy students
- BIHS exam fees to assist low income students
- College Application fees and test score transfer fees to assist low income students

## Classroom Support

Classroom Grants - up to \$200 for every classroom teacher in BHS, B-Tech and Independent Study - purchasing any items needed in the classroom to benefit student learning

- Math department - Graphing Calculator Loans
- Photography - Purchase of 6 digital cameras and telephoto lens
- Afro-Haitian dance classes - Guest choreographers
- AP Environmental Science Test Preparation and Curriculum Development
- Ceramics -New kiln to fire Bisque Ware
- IB Studio Art - 2 iMac computers for student portfolios
- Math Department Professional Development support
- CAS Social Justice Seminar non-fiction literature
- AC Reading and Writing the Short Story class - Author speaker stipend
- Life Academy - Poets and Artists grant - bringing artists, storytellers, musicians and film makers to Life Academy classes
- CAS - International Economics Summit Project teacher training/curriculum materials
- BIHS - printer for Cultural Aesthetics class

## Library

- Author guest speaker - Sharon Draper assembly
- Library - Discretionary Funds

## Clubs

- BHS Chorus Club - funded a chorus director and accompanist to re-establish the Choral program
- Cooking Workshop
- Social Skills and Sexual Health group for students with special needs - binders
- Best Buddies Club - funds for next year's club president to attend the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference in July, 2009.
- Electrical Engineering Club - funds for building an autonomous robot

*Shawna Hartman-Brotsky*

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## BIG ATHLETIC FUND RAISER!

Please join us for the second annual Berkeley High School Golf Classic on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at Tilden Golf Course. Get your friends to join you in this four person scramble golf tournament: Team prizes 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, Putting Contest, Long Drive, Closest to the Pin, Raffle, Silent and Live Auction and Hole in One – Car Prize. \$125 per player includes golf and picnic dinner prepared by Bakesale Betty.

Golf entry includes: Tee-Prizes and Tickets to the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, May 2, 11:00 AM, Donahue Gym. All proceeds go to Berkeley High School Athletics.

Entry form at [www.berkeleyathleticfund.org](http://www.berkeleyathleticfund.org) or contact Manish Doshi at (510) 301-1747 or [manish\\_baf@comcast.net](mailto:manish_baf@comcast.net).

*MK Murlas*

# PTSA PARENT EDUCATION SERIES

## “Bridge The Screen Divide” Workshop -- Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Stop Screaming at the Screen! Talk to your Teen and Build a Positive Technology Relationship. Presentation will take place at the Berkeley High School Library from 7-9 P.M.

Are technology-related issues the source of anger and frustration in your family? For many families, there is no relief from the struggles over video games, the internet and cell phones. There are many challenges to raising a teen in a digital world, and yelling and nagging can't be the only answer. It takes both understanding and limits to effectively confront technology-related issues and to get communication back on track. We offer Bridge the Screen Divide Workshops that help parents to build a positive technology relationship with their teens.

Bridge The Screen Divide Workshops will help you:

- Find out why your teen is so interested in video games and the internet.
- Deal with Tech-Time Management Issues.
- Address Screen Health Concerns Learn about online manners.
- Get Internet Safe and Protected.
- Become informed about internet misuse.

Jason Brand, LCSW, is a family therapist with a technology background who specializes in bridging the 'screen' divide. Jason offers practical ideas and insight into how parents can get tech-friendly and how teens can get safety- and limit-friendly with the internet and video games. Bridge The Screen Divide Workshops are an opportunity for analog parents to learn how to communicate with their digital teens.

A big thank you to the Berkeley High School Development Group for their support. All parents and guardians are invited. RSVPs preferred, but not required to: [audrey12@comcast.net](mailto:audrey12@comcast.net) or [wlucas@sbc.net](mailto:wlucas@sbc.net).

*Audrey Spector & Wendy Lucas*

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## STUDENT ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Spring time is here and so much is happening this year at Student Activities! We began the semester with the talent show that featured various acts. We had a light show, belly dancer, singers, rappers, hip hop dancers, poets and more! The students worked really hard to showcase the various types of talent from BHS and they did a wonderful job. Congratulations to the winner, senior Trashelle Hicks, with her wonderful belly dance performance! Many thanks to the judges who came out and blended in the crowd to make the judging fair and fun!

Junior Prom is coming up March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Bayside Pavilion in Alameda. Tickets are on sale now in D173. The tickets started at fifty dollars and will go up each week by five dollars so get your tickets early. We are still looking for chaperones, so if you would like to volunteer, please contact Edith Jordan at 510-644-8990 or email [Edith\\_Jordan@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:Edith_Jordan@berkeley.k12.ca.us).

Also, ASB, the associated student body, will be sponsoring the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Week of Service. During this week the students hold a campus clean up, tutor Tuesday, Club Day, a blood drive, and the end of the week celebration on Friday. They will also be attempting to add a book drive of old college preparatory books. This is a new activity this year, and if you have any books you would like to donate, please bring them to D148. The goal of the book drive is to make college preparatory books available for students who cannot afford them. We would also appreciate any snacks, juices, or water donated to provide for students who sign up for the campus clean up.

The freshmen sponsored event, MORP, the backwards prom will be held in early April in the food court. This fun event is open to all BHS students, but is a fundraiser for the freshman class. We would love any support you would like to offer to make this event successful. If you would like to chaperone, or donate any items for our guest please contact Edith Jordan at the number above.

Lastly, the senior prom will be on May 9<sup>th</sup> this year. There will be more details to come, but if you have any questions, do not hesitate to call. Also you have not ordered your cap and gown, please contact Achievers, our cap and gown provider at 408-441-7200.

Again, thank you all the support we have received in student activities! Please keep the love and support coming, because the students and I really appreciate it!

*Edith Jordan*