



HAWKTALK

MADISON PTSA/SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Volume XLV, Issue 1

November - December 2007

From the Principal:

I want to extend my thanks to families for their continued support. You are supporting the school by seeing that your son/daughter arrive on time and are prepared to engage in learning. I was pleased to honor 307 students who earned a 3.33 G.P.A. and above on their first progress report with certificates for "Promising Progress Reports". At our recent Smart Cookies reception 126 awards were presented for high test scores on the AP, SAT, ACT, PSAT, and CAHSEE. High scores on these important exams can lead to earning scholarships and reduced tuition at colleges and universities.

It is important that we recognize students who are excelling and support students who need additional help. By now you should have received our second six-week progress report that was issued on December 14, 2007. Please review your son/daughter's progress report and take full advantage of any additional support provided. The counseling staff at Madison is ready to assist. Please remember that the semester ends on February 1, 2008 and these are the final first semester grades for students.

Our fall sports season has concluded and our winter sports season has begun. Many thanks to all the fans that supported our football team this season. They have earned first place in the Central League and went on to the CIF finals. All of the coaches and teams of football, volleyball, cross country, and field hockey are commended for their outstanding efforts this season. We look forward to more excitement as we watch soccer, basketball and wrestling.

November was a busy month for seniors as they worked to complete college applications. During December we were entertained by our drama students as they performed the production of "Barefoot in the Park". Our band/choral winter concert was a huge success. CPMA/Kroc and Madison performed together as a benefit concert to support fire victims who had lost musical instruments in the recent fire.

The Program Improvement Year 4 Leadership Team, comprised of parents, teachers, administration, and district central office staff, held a full-day retreat to review Madison data, current research, and to begin the work of developing a plan to improve student achievement for our two subgroups that did not meet their targets: English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities. A survey developed by Harvard University was administered to all students to get information regarding students' perceptions and attitudes toward classroom instruction in order to address student learning. This information will be used to develop a plan with the district which will be presented to the Board of Education for approval to be implemented for the 2008-09 school year.

I would like to share with you that Rachel Rice, teacher at Madison, was honored by the California League of High Schools for Outstanding Educator of the Year. Our JROTC unit was selected with Hoover High to assist with giveaways at the Charger game held on November 25, 2007.

Winter break will soon be here. School will be closed for winter vacation from December 24 – January 6. We are asking all students to continue with their studies by reading, researching information about colleges, and working on any special projects required by teachers. We believe that high expectations and focused attention to studies is the key to success. Wishing you a great holiday season. Go Warhawks!

PTSA

everychild.onevoice.

From the PTSA President:

Greetings all Association Members!

It is hard to believe we are coming up on the holidays and new year!

We have had an exciting year so far working on new by-laws and acknowledging staff and students. Several scholarships were provided to students who earned a score of "5" on their AP examinations last year. Upcoming Association meetings will include approval of the by-laws and establishing a nomination committee for electing next year's Board. We continue to seek assistance in several areas so please contact us if you can help. The greatest gift we can give our youth, is a measure of our time, talent or treasure. Although time seems to be in a constant state of short supply, it is the one true equalizer. We all have the same number of hours in each day. We all have some area that we excel, some talent that we can teach or lend to improve a life. We all have treasure in varying amounts, some

more than others. As we enter this time of giving and gratitude, please consider a donation of some kind to our PTSA as it is our goal to improve the lives of everyone involved with James Madison High School.

Wishing you all a Blessed holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Tanya Peacock
President
James Madison PTSA



Homework Center

Madison is fortunate to be offering an after school homework center. Classroom teachers are available in the library to help with English, math, science and social science homework. The homework center offers students a great opportunity to get individual or small group help in a quiet and beautiful setting. Help with homework is available Monday through Thursday each week from 2:20 -3:20 in the school library. There is no need for students to sign up, just show up after school and sign in at the desk. Parents who wish to do so may check to verify their students' attendance by contacting the librarian or library technician at extension 2236 or 2220. Late bus service is offered to all VEEP locations departing the school at 3:45 each day. Late bus passes will be given to all students who participate in the homework center.

CAHSEE EXAM

All tenth grade students will take the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) March 11th and 12th. To help acquaint parents and guardians with content and format of the exam, we provided tenth grade students with two study guide books. Prepared by the state of California, these books, one for English and one for mathematics, provide an excellent overview of the CAHSEE exam. The books are softbound, approximately 100 pages in length and entitled, *Preparing for the California High School Exit Examination*. All tenth graders were issued both booklets in Advisory classes Friday December 14th with the expectation that the books go home. We recommend that you review the contents of the books and make use of the practice test questions in the back of each book to help identify areas of additional need. Because all the questions used in the books are actual CAHSEE exam questions that appeared on earlier versions of the exam you will be able to get a very good idea about your student's potential for success on this high stakes test. If your tenth grade student did not bring one or both of these books home, please contact his/her counselor and we will be happy to provide them to you.

In addition to providing these books for your use in your homes, we will be helping to prepare your students for success on the CAHSEE in their English, Math and Advisory classes. If you identify particular concerns about your student's preparedness for the exam please contact their math or English teacher or their counselor. We want to partner with you to ensure all students succeed the first time around.



Late Activity Bus Service

School busses provide daily transportation for VEEP students to and from Madison. A limited number of CHOICE option students also ride these busses on a space available basis. In addition to the regular morning and afternoon routes, Madison offers late bus delivery to students' neighborhoods. Busses leave Madison at 3:45, 5:15 and 7:10 p.m. The seating on these busses is reserved for students participating on in-season athletics teams, attending *Madison After School* classes ("night school" courses), participants in drama and musical rehearsals/productions, robotics, MESA program, or other organized and teacher supervised activities. Students who participate in after school tutoring in their teachers' classrooms or the homework center should in only. Students wishing to make use of the late activity busses must present either a late bus pass or student ID card with a fall, winter or spring sports sticker on the back to the bus supervisor and bus driver before boarding the bus. Students may obtain late bus passes from classroom teachers, the homework center or their sports coach. Teachers will give late bus passes to students only after completing a tutoring session in their classrooms.



Madison is a closed campus

Madison, like all schools in san Diego Unified School District is a closed campus. It is our expectation that all students arrive on campus sufficiently early to be seated in their first by the 7:30 a.m. tardy bell. Students may not leave campus at any time during the school day except on accompanied field trips led by certificated staff members or to attend classes scheduled at other sites. Students are not allowed to leave campus for lunch. The lunch menus at Madison are nutritional and students are expected to either bring lunch with them or use one of the four different lunch options on campus. Parents/guardians wishing to do so may make arrangements to pre-pay for school meals. The school district website link for pre-payment of meals is <http://www.sandi.net/food/>. You may also contact Madison's student dining room supervisor by calling the school at (858) 496-8410 x2219 to make arrangements to pre-pay for meals. Thanks to all parents and guardians who responded to our requests for lunch applications. Madison had our highest turn in rate ever and more than 60% of our students qualified for free lunch and breakfast this year.



Enrollment option changes for 2008-2009

Here are some changes to the Enrollment Options process for 2008/09 (from the SDUSD Enrollment Options office):

- Parents will be limited to listing five schools during the priority enrollment application period of October 1, 2007 - January 31, 2008. Parents listing additional schools will be added to a non-priority waitlist for those schools.
- Schools will offer enrollment to parents on the priority waitlist (first waitlist) from March 15 - May 15, including out of district students.
- The magnet clusters are now combined into three clusters. The magnet schools will be receiving information regarding this change.
- The Voluntary Ethnic Enrollment Program (VEEP) is now called the Voluntary Enrollment Exchange Program (VEEP).
- The Choice program is now called Open Enrollment.



DIABETES PREVENTION 24/7 Club

Students from Madison High School are committed to helping to find a cure for diabetes.

This year we have started a new club, Diabetes Prevention 24/7, to help further the mission of the American Diabetes Association: *to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.*

Students will learn more about diabetes and their own health choices. The American Diabetes Association has provided a series of lesson plans that promote healthy living and can be incorporated into classes including art, writing, civics and technology. Student leaders who are working hard to plan this event and raise money for the American Diabetes Association will also earn credit for community service requirements.

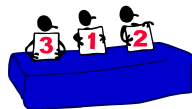
Today more than 20.8 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes. Diabetes is a condition where the body either does not make enough insulin or can't use the insulin it does make. The two most common types of diabetes are:

- **Type 1 diabetes** – when the body destroys its own insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.
- **Type 2 diabetes** – when the body is either not making enough insulin or can't use the insulin it does make. Eating healthy foods and regularly exercising can help prevent type 2 diabetes.

Our school also benefits. Schools raising \$1,000 or more earn a percentage back for physical education equipment and school medical supplies. Please visit our website if you would like to donate:

(Do not use www) <http://main.diabetes.org/goto/jamesmadison>.

If you would like to volunteer time to help with this program, please contact Terri Reeves at treeves@sandi.net or at 858-496-8410 ext. 4404.



Senior Exhibition Panel Members

Parents and Community Members, If you are interested in being a panel member for the Senior Exhibitions/Boards on May 16, 2008. Please contact the Employer Outreach Specialist at (858) 465-8410x2232 or E-mail mgutierrez@sandi.net. This is an incredible opportunity for parents and community members to learn more about the seniors and our school. Hear about the experiences of Madison students, and share in the success of our fabulous students.

Parents and Community Members

Madison High School was awarded a 21st Century Grant for after-school programs. This five year grant from the California Department of Education will provide additional funding for academic support, enrichment activities and parent education.

Some of the activities planned for this school year are::

- Peer tutoring, mentoring
- College field trips

- After-school guitar club, hip-hop dance, support groups, theater tech classes
- Digital media class, DJ classes
- Robotics to engage students in math and science
- Family financial literacy, computer classes
- And much more....

As a part of the grant, Madison will be opening a new Student Center to house our after-school program. We would like to make this a welcoming environment for students, parents and community members. We are asking for your support in donating any of the items below:

- Table/Floor Lamps
- Love seat or sofas (small)
- Coffee tables (small)
- End tables
- Comfortable reading chairs
- Café-style table/chairs
- Area rugs
- Office desks
- Plants
- Decorative items

If you would like to make a donation or know someone who would, or if you have any questions, please contact Greg Williams at (858) 496-8410 ext. 4406, ext. 2232, or e-mail gwilliams3@sandi.net. Thank you.

From the Guidance Department

by Carol Sobek, Head Counselor

Grades

December 7 marks the end of the 12 week grading period, with Progress Reports distributed on Friday, December 14 during Advisory. The Fall Semester ends February 1, following two minimum days for final exams on January 31 and February 1. These grades will be reflected on the student's permanent transcript. Semester Report Cards will be mailed home by SDUSD on February 8. The new Spring Semester begins on Monday, February 4.

Course Selection for Students Entering Grades 9-12 in 2008-2009

Kroc Middle School 8th graders, Kroc teachers and parents will be walking to our campus on December 19 to experience the annual "Picture Yourself at Madison" Assembly and Tour. The Show Choir, Drama troupe, Marching Band, JROTC Drill Teams, Robotics Team, Cheerleaders, ASB, Journalism, Yearbook, Athletics, Link Crew, and the Small Learning Communities will be showcased with student performances and speakers. Thirty ASB students will provide small group tours with the 300 prospective freshmen, including a refreshment stop in the Student Dining Room. Kroc visitors will be on campus from 9-11 a.m. for this special event. Please extend a warm welcome to them! The Madison counselors will be visiting Kroc on January 8-9 and 15-16 to present graduation requirements and course options and to meet individually with prospective students to select 2008-2009 courses. Eighth graders from CPMA (Creative and Performing Arts Magnet) will experience a "Picture Yourself at Madison" Assembly and Tour on January 23, with individual enrollment appointments on January 25. CPMA students who live in the Madison attendance area may enroll at Madison without submitting a VEEP or Choice application by the January 30 district deadline.

Current Madison 9th, 10th and 11th grade students will be selecting courses through their English classes beginning February 11 and ending March 7. Each student will receive a detailed Madison Course Descriptions and Educational Planning Guide. Parents should look for Course Selection Cards to come home for parent signatures, with an absolute due date of March 14. Schedule planning for 2008-2009 is already beginning!

Targeting College – Tenth Grade Review Parent/Student Evening Program

On Wednesday, February 13, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. all tenth graders and their parents are encouraged to attend a special evening program in the Performing Arts Center which will inform families about important graduation and college admission requirements for the Class of 2010. With the increased emphasis on graduates being eligible to enroll at four year and two year colleges, it is critical that students know the expectations prior to the senior year. Although meeting the A-G admission requirements for both the CSU and UC systems begins with world language and algebra in Grades 7 and 8, the GPA for both systems begins in grade 10. Eligibility for Cal Grant A, the largest source of free money for California colleges, is dependent upon a 3.0 unweighted GPA in grades 10 and 11 in all courses except PE and ROTC. Part of the evening will include formulating a course plan for the junior and senior years. Students who are at-risk of not graduating will receive intervention options. Those who attend will receive a portfolio of valuable resources regarding college admission, SAT and ACT testing, financial aid, and diploma requirements. Don't miss it!

Eleventh Graders Prepare for College Admission

Although January 2008 seems as long way from the senior year, it is critical that the Class of 2009 begins taking the SAT I on the 26th of January, so that there is plenty of time for receiving results, remediating weaknesses, and retaking the test at least one additional time in March 2008. December 6-13 all juniors will be registering for the spring SAT testing opportunities during their Advisory classes, with special online registration workshops. In addition, on December 4 and 5 the counselors will visit all eleventh grade English classes to deliver important information regarding SAT testing registration and a suggested testing plan. May will be dedicated to AP and STAR testing, leaving only the June testing date to take the SAT II (Subject Tests) for UC. There are no SAT tests in September 2008, so next year's seniors will only have October and November to retake tests for CSU and December for UC. There will be an opportunity for an SAT Prep Workshop this spring through the generosity of Elite Reality and Jason and Linda Lee who are alumni of Madison. The workshop will run three weekends from 8-12, with the dates to be determined soon. A flyer will be included in the next PTSA newsletter, and the first 60 students to respond will be registered, for a small fee of \$10, which includes a \$30 test prep book.

Financial Aid Opportunities for Seniors

With the November 30 deadline for CSU and UC application past, seniors are now concentrating on applications to private colleges and universities, scholarships and financial aid. Seniors receive a monthly "Show Me the Money" scholarship newsletter in their Advisory classes, produced by Counselor Ms. Michelle Francescotti. Parents should begin preparing their 2007 taxes, so that accurate figures can be used to meet the March 2, 2008 deadline for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). **On January 15, we will be hosting the Madison Class of 2008 Financial Aid Workshop in the Student Dining Room from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** All seniors and their parents should attend to hear a financial aid expert conduct a line by line workshop and to sign up for additional one-on-one online workshops to complete the FAFSA. Completing a FAFSA is part of the Senior Portfolio. *Whether or not you feel your family would qualify for financial aid, the FAFSA is the basic document used by all universities to determine financial need, even for awarding merit-based scholarships.* You cannot receive any form of aid, need or merit-based, without completing the FAFSA! Saturday morning workshops will be provided by the counselors and AVID teachers on January 26 and February 2 from 9 a.m.-noon in the Madison library. Last year, the Class of 2007 earned over \$750,000 in college scholarships and grants, with 50% of that being earned through the Cal Grant and Pell Grant Awards, the end result of filing a FAFSA!

CAHSEE, STAR, SAT, ACT, and AP Tests for Madison Students

CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam)

February 5 and 6 - C/O 2008 (repeat)

March 11 and 12 - C/O 2009 (repeat) and C/O 2010 (first opportunity)

May 6 and 7 - C/O 2008 (repeat) and C/O 2010 (makeup for those absent on March 11 or 12)

STAR (California Standards Tests)

April 30 and May 1 (Grades 9-11 with Senior Options* for Grade 12)

May 6 and 7 (Same)

* Senior Options includes placement testing, application and orientation for Mesa Community College

SAT and ACT

January 26 SAT I - C/O 2009 first attempt (registration deadline December 26)

March 1 SAT I - C/O 2009 repeat (registration deadline January 29)

April 12 ACT - C/O 2009 first attempt (registration deadline March 7)

May 3 SAT I - C/O 2009 repeat opportunity for students not impacted by AP test prep (registration deadline April 1)

June 7 SAT II (Subject Tests for UC) - C/O 2009 first attempt (registration deadline May 6)

June 14 ACT - C/O 2009 first attempt or repeat (registration deadline May 9)

AP (Advanced Placement - for all students enrolled in AP courses* - orders due early March)

May 5 - AP French Language a.m.

May 6 - AP Spanish Language a.m. / AP Statistics p.m. (Seniors)

May 8 - AP English Literature a.m. (Seniors)

May 9 - AP U.S. History a.m. (Juniors) / AP European History p.m. (Sophomores)

May 12 - AP Biology a.m. (Seniors)

May 13 - AP Environmental Science a.m. (Seniors)/ AP Psychology p.m. (Seniors)

May 14 - AP English Language a.m. (Juniors) / AP Art History p.m. (Juniors and Seniors)

*District policy dictates that all students enrolled in an AP course must take the corresponding exam in order to receive weighted credit and the AP course title on their transcript.

Congratulations to Standardized Test "Smart Cookies"

The following students were honored at the November 16 "Smart Cookies" Awards Program for excellent standardized test achievement in the following categories. Mr. Michael Peacock of the Madison PTSA and Foundation presented checks to students who earned one or more "5's" on an AP exam this past May (noted with an asterisk).

**Perfect Score on One or More Sections of the CAHSEE –
Class of 2009**

Allen, Shane
Dahlman, Spencer
Johnston, Anastasia
Amberg, Eric
Dolphin, Dante
Ling, Chen
O'Gorman, William
Olave, Jonathan
Plaschka, Jessica
Wentworth, Amanda

**National Merit Commended Scholar-
Class of 2008**

Dave', Veronica
Hora, Shaina
Oliver, Rachel

SAT I and II Tests

Scanlon, Camber
Albert, JD
Bobadilla, Joe
Bowles, Trevor
Bradford, Christina
Chang, Anh
Conover, Jamie
Corbella, Jaclyn
Creeden, Jennifer
Culver, Ariel
Curtis, Kelsey
Dang, Kathleen
Dave', Veronica
Firebaugh, Caleb
Fonteneau, Peter
Fowler, Philip
Fremland, Jessica
Gasca, Wendy
Gregorich, Laura
Hernandez, Chantal
Hora, Shaina
Ikonen, Dana
Jaimes, Gerardo
Jensen, Eric
Kennedy, Chelsea
Ling, Chen
Marin, Paul
Mondragon, Diana
Nguyen, Dinh
Oliver, Rachel

SATI and II Tests (cont.)

Phanle, Diem
Quintanar, Victoria
Quintero, David
Ramos, Paolo
Richardson, Tommie
Salgado, Neftali
Sanchez, Casey
Scanlon, Camber
Schneider-Haney, Ben
Solano, Elena
Taggett, Paris
Thomas, Paula
Tran, Toan
Valkoun, Anthony
Van Berlo, Victoria
Vangorkom, Alex
Velasquez, Carla
Williams, Sierra
Williamson, Leah

ACT Tests

Ikonen, Dana
Arrington, Rebecca
Corbella, Jaclyn
Curtis, Kelsey
Dang, Kathleen
Fremland, Jessica
Ling, Chen
Manion, Rochelle
Nguyen, Dinh
Oliver, Rachel
Schneider-Haney, Ben
Velasquez, Carla

AP Tests

Albert, JD
Allen, Shane
Amberg, Eric
Arrington, Rebecca*
Bobadilla, Joe
Corbella, Jaclyn
Creeden, Jennifer
Culver, Ariel
Curtis, Kelsey
Dahlman, Spencer
Dang, Kathleen
Dave', Veronica*
Fremland, Jessica
Gregorich, Laura
Hora, Shaina*

AP Tests (cont.)

Humphrey, Russell
Kennedy, Chelsea
Ling, Chen
Montes, Dalia
Nguyen, Dinh
Oliver, Rachel*
Salgado, Neftali
Solano, Elena
Van Berlo, Victoria
Velasquez, Carla*
Wentworth, Amanda

AP Scholar (Passing score of 3 or more on 3 tests)

Albert, JD
Arrington, Rebecca
Hora, Shaina
Oliver, Rachel
Velasquez, Carla

AP Scholar with Honor (Passing score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams and a grade of 3 or higher on four or more exams)

Curtis, Kelsey
Dave', Veronica

News from the Health Office

by Bev Bembridge, RN



“The Super Bug”

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

Media reports have been on the frenzy lately about the “Super Bug” with claims, supported by The Journal of the American Medicine Association (JAMA), the bug may cause more deaths than HIV-AIDS. What is this Super Bug and where did it come from?

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a type of bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics including methicillin and more common antibiotics such as penicillin and amoxicillin, making treatment challenging.

MRSA infections date back to the 1960's when Staph organisms began building resistance to methicillin drugs. MRSA infection primarily showed up in hospitals and healthcare settings in individuals with weakened immune systems such as the elderly, the very sick, and those with an open wound (bedsore) or tubes into their body (such as a urinary catheter or IV catheter). MRSA infections of individuals who have not been hospitalized within the past year, or had a medical procedure (such as dialysis, surgery, catheters) are known as Community Associated MRSA (CA-MRSA). Most Staph or MRSA infections in the community involve the skin and soft tissue and may develop as boils or abscesses and occur in people who are otherwise healthy.

Although anyone can get a Staph or MRSA infection, people are at risk if they have skin to skin contact with someone infected, cuts or scrapes on their skin, contact with items and surfaces with Staph on them, crowded living conditions or poor hygiene. It is important to contact your doctor if you have an infection that does not get better. Prevention tips: keep your cuts and scrapes clean and covered with bandages. Do not share personal items/equipment, and wash your hands often! Instant hand sanitizers are also recommended.

MRSA may also cause more serious infections or death because of bacteremia (bacteria in blood), pneumonia or other causes. In a study published in October 2007 in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 55.6% of MRSA related deaths were because of septic shock (serious infection), 32.4% with pneumonia and 19.3% with endocarditis (heart inflammation).

Students who have a MRSA wound or skin infection may attend school, but since it is not always known if a wound has a MRSA infection, wounds should be kept covered. If a wound cannot be covered, the student may have to be excluded from certain activities or school. Students participating in sports involving physical contact should be encouraged to use good hygiene, avoid sharing towels, equipment or other personal items and inform coaches and the school nurse about active skin infections.

For more information regarding MRSA please contact your health care provider.

From the Librarian:

The after school Homework Center is alive and growing in the MHS Library. Ms. Ulibarri's Math Club students have been tutoring students who need help in math. We thank these students as well as Mr. Walach, Mr. Cella, Ms. Pennefather, Ms. Franks and Mr. Nusser for volunteering their time to assist students. A number of students who were not pleased with their six week progress reports have been turning up to the library to do homework before going home and to avail themselves of the academic expertise that we have here. Thank you for encouraging your students to make academic success a priority.

YEARBOOK

Do you want to purchase a **great** holiday gift for your student? Use your credit card and purchase the yearbook online at www.buyayearbook.com (school id: 8023820). At the financial office the cost of the yearbook is \$80, \$75 with ASB Card. After the Winter break, the cost will go up to \$90, \$85 with ASB Card. This is the year to purchase your yearbook. The book is all color, 220 pages long and perhaps one of the most artistic books Madison has ever produced. Senior advertisements are available for a limited time (due by December 21st) and they can be purchased online (www.buyayearbook.com, school ID- 8023820) The cost of the yearbook is supplemented by the selling of ads and donations. If you are interested in placing an ad in the yearbook, or would like to make a donation, contact Rachel Rice (advisor) at 858-496-8410 ext.4307 /rrice@sandi.net.

GATE/SEMINAR

As we move into the final weeks of the first semester here is an update on GATE, Seminar and AP courses:

Mrs. Strauss's two Cluster English 3-4 classes will be finishing up their narrative unit (short stories and Lord of the Flies) and will be embarking on their expository unit. They will be reading and analyzing expository texts as well as composing an expository feature article.

Mrs. Janiak's Honors U.S. History class are working on their American Ideal essay in both English and History and we are moving into the unit of America as a World Power. Her Advanced World History course is studying the Industrial Revolution and moving into the unit of Imperialism.

Mrs. Rice's AP Composition and Language course is continuing to fine-tune their analytical reading and writing skills. After learning about the art of debate, and reading the Gettysburg address, students will be reading expository writing from World War I to The Roaring 20's. Students are also learning the fine art of taking standardized multiple-choice tests in the hopes to improve SAT scores, and prepare them for AP exams.

MHS – A unique school with unique programs

Link Crew

What a success Link Crew has been this year! Junior and Senior Link Leaders are actively participating in their freshmen advisory classes and forging friendships with their Links. Upcoming events include: Cocoa and Cram (1/30 after school). If you are interested in helping out with events designed to support freshmen, contact Rachel Rice (rrice@sandi.net) or Erica Johnson (ejohnson2@sandi.net).

Athletics

Rick Jackson, Athletic Director

As our Fall Sports conclude for 2007 Madison High School has some real highlights to share. Our field hockey team had another great year; they just missed the playoffs as they play in one of the toughest leagues in the city. Individually recognized were, Nicole Cardon, Coaches Award, Francis Ford, Most Valuable Player, and Lindsey Van, Most Improved. Girl's volleyball and cross-country also had fine years with the cross-country team sending 12 kids to CIF. Jessica Plaschka received individual honors with recognition as a member of the All League team in cross country. Courtney Geisler, first team all league, Pina Tuisamoa and Melinda Warren second team all league earned girls varsity volleyball team league honors.

Our Football program wrapped up one of its best years in a long time. Our freshman and Junior Varsity teams were a combined 13-5. Our varsity team won our third league title in four years and went on to beat a tough Mater Dei varsity in the quarter finals of the playoffs Friday November 23rd. Moving on to the semi-finals, and playing in the pouring rain, Madison's team that many expected would finish no better than third in league, played with spirit and determination and narrowly lost to a highly regarded Mission Bay team. This year we had many great players that have been recognized by our league for their effort. Leading the way was Robbie Rouse who was voted Offensive Player of the year and Steven Earner who was voted Defensive Player of the year in the Central League. Other first team All-League members included; two way stars Carlton Billingslea and JD Albert, free safety Phillip Fowler, and sophomore quarterback Lester Fontenette and fellow sophomore Joseph O'loughlin. We also had a few 2nd team all leaguers in: sophomore David Lamar, Richy Aumoeaulogo, Jordan Lindsey, Sean Seaman and freshman Jake Schmidt. We expect that next year will be even more exciting than this year.

We are very excited about all of our fall sports as we lead into our winter seasons. In the Winter, Madison offers a variety of boys and girls sports. Boys and girls basketball is up and going as we welcome our new girls head coach Lowe Leasau, we are very excited to have his experience and energy on campus. We expect that both of our programs will be very competitive in the upcoming year. We also have boys and girl's soccer, our girl's soccer team is the defending league champions and both teams are expected to be very competitive again this year. Finally the last sport that we are offering in the winter is wrestling. Wrestling has become very popular on campus and we have a team of close to 40 athletes, once again we are looking to make a run at a league championship.

If anyone is interested in participating in a winter sport go see the coach today. Our spring sports start in early February so if you are going to participate, please make sure your grades and physicals are up to date. Spring sports eligibility is determined by first semester grades. Students wishing to participate in baseball, softball, co-educational track and field, boy's tennis, badminton and golf in the spring should be working now to ensure their eligibility.

If you have any questions please contact the Athletic Director: Rick Jackson and I will gladly point you in the right direction. Email: rjackson2@sandi.net

Departmental News

English, Tom Staninger,
Department Chair

CAHSEE testing is only a couple of months away and since writing, reading, grammar, and vocabulary is fundamental to most testing success, the English department has been hard at work preparing our students. Standardized testing doesn't give the whole picture of the student, but it does give us some feedback about what a student knows and doesn't know. College bound 11th graders should be signing up to take one of the Spring SAT tests. Students should remember that there are rewards for those who score well on the SAT beyond college admittance. One is that any California State University will waive the placement tests for English and Math if the student scores 550 or higher on those sections of the SAT. On the nights before these tests, parents should be sure that their students get enough sleep and in the morning eat a good breakfast. But the best way for parents to ensure success is to make sure their students are reading everyday, in and outside of the classroom, and are being diligent with all of their assignments. Remember, practice doesn't make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect.

Mathematics, John Cella,
Department Chair

Hello Madison community.

The math department has spent most of our professional development days this year with other district math teachers working with the new Algebra Explorations curriculum. We have had great dialogue with our colleagues from other schools in the San Diego Unified School District at these workshops. We believe as a district staff that this curriculum is both interesting for students and effective in addressing the state standards. We hope that your student is enjoying the collaborative environment that goes along with the CPM model. Don't forget about the California High School Exit Exam that is approaching fast. The test in March will be given to all sophomores at Madison and any juniors who did not pass last year. Please take advantage of our math teachers who are currently tutoring in the library after school. They can help you pass this very important test. Lastly, the math department would like to say Happy Holidays to our entire community and wish you all the best of health in the future. Let's continue to work hard and make this year a success for everyone!

Social Science, Paul Anderson,
Department Chair

The Social Studies department invites all parents to share in their child's learning of history. Just having conversations with your kids about the way things were when you were younger gives them a better concept of how things have changed. Share TV viewing by tuning into the History Channel, PBS, Biography, or National Geographic. Currently, World History students (some 9th, mostly 10th grade) are studying the Industrial Revolution. Help them understand how amazing our technology is today. Eleventh grade United States History students are learning about World War I and soon will be studying the 20s and then the Great Depression. Perhaps a grandparent might be able to share what life was like then.

The second grading period ended recently and your child should have brought home a progress report. We encourage all struggling students to attend our after school tutoring sessions or ask their teachers for extra help.

We wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

Visual and Performing Arts,
Jennifer Lind, Department Chair

Madison High School & CPMA Benefit Concert for Fire Victims

Madison High School Choirs, Concert Band and CPMA's Intermediate Choir will come together on December 20th for a benefit concert to help students in Ramona and Poway. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from this concert will be given to the Po-

way Fire Music Relief fund which helps students replace musical instruments lost in the recent fires. The choirs and band presented both concert and holiday material and Madison's Art Department offered ceramic and rock art pieces for sale as well.

Madison Theatre Arts Guild's production of Neil Simon's, "Barefoot in the Park", had a very successful run Dec 12 – 14. A portion of their proceeds was also donated to the relief fund.

Madison's choir, band, drama and art students wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to our fellow arts students in Ramona and Poway.

Instrumental Music Department Director, Mr. Brad M. Pulverenti

The members of the Instrumental Music Department in the School Of The Arts at Madison High School have been tooting their horns throughout the Clairemont community. This year, Mr. Brad M. Pulverenti is continuing his role as Director of the program and is once again leading the band to success.

In addition to performing at all of the home Varsity football games and school pep rallies, The Madison High School Marching Warhawks participated in the Clairemont Town Square Holiday Parade, which took place on Friday, November 23rd, and the Pacific Beach Holiday Parade that occurred on Saturday, December 8th. To bring a close to the Fall Semester, the Concert Band will combine its musical talents with those of the chorale ensembles from both Madison High School and CPMA will present the a Winter Concert on Thursday, December 20th in Madison's Performing Arts Center. On Wednesday, January 23rd the instrumental music program will perform as part of the CPMA Picture Yourself at Madison presentation for prospective Madison Warhawks.

As the second portion of the school year begins, students are encouraged to join the Instrumental Music Program at Madison High School regardless of their background and/or skill level. Mr. Pulverenti and his current students will warmly welcome all new ensemble members. Many exciting events are being planned for the Concert Band during the Spring Semester including a March cluster concert with the instrumental ensembles from Kroc Middle School and CPMA, performances at various music festivals, the annual Spring Concert with the school's choral ensembles, and Madison's Commencement Ceremony. Pride, Precision, and Passion are the values that drive the Instrumental Music Department in the School Of The Arts at Madison High School. Join its members as they exemplify these virtues through music!

Deaf and hard of Hearing, Joyce Brody, Department Chair
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This year there are 5 D/HH teachers co-teaching in 9 general education classes: Earth Science, Biology, Algebra Exploration, Geometry, Unifying Algebra and Geometry, Geography and World History, U.S. History, English 1-2, English 3-4, and American Literature. Co-teaching offers extra support to both mainstreamed D/HH students and all students in these classes.

The D/HH department had a world famous presenter, Dr. Edie Eger, a holocaust survivor, psychologist, and inspirational speaker come on November 9, 2007. Both the D/HH Applied and Special Needs classes hosted great Thanksgiving dinners this year. They practiced teamwork, recipe reading, measuring, and transition skills. The food was delicious!

In May of 2007, Cynthia Konow-Brownell, D/HH Communication Skills teacher, received a grant from the Lion's Club to promote the use of video in communication skills. Janet Terry and Joyce Brody, D/HH Teachers, won the Inspire Award from the Classroom of the Future Foundation for their transition website: <http://www.needsoutreach.org/Pages/TransTOC3.html>

This summer, D/HH students, Abiel Georgeo and John O'Loughlin, participated in the Youth Leadership Camp (YLC) in Oregon. They met past, present and future Deaf leaders from all over the United States. They will apply their learning in the JrNAD (Junior National Association of the Deaf) club at Madison.

Future Hawktalk articles will highlight other aspects of the D/HH Department at Madison. We have added a D/HH Journalism class this year, so look forward to seeing some of those articles on our website at: <http://www.madison.sandi.net/DHH/MHSDHHDept/index.html>

Office of Interpreting and Transcribing Services

Tucked away in the far reaches of the Madison High School campus bungalows, is probably one of the site's best-kept secrets as well as one of the district's crown jewels. The SDUSD's Office of Interpreting and Transcribing Services has been located at Madison for over 29 years. Under the guidance and leadership of the late Dr. Barbara MacNeil, the program has become a model of educational interpreting for other learning institutions across the state and the country. On average our office serves 10-12 sites on a daily basis with a staff of 22 interpreters and 7 transcribers providing services to over 300 Deaf/Hard of Hearing students, staff, parents, and other adults. Although current legislation requires all educational interpreters to be certified, our department has historically maintained a certified staff rate of 90% and above. This trend is expected to continue under current Program Manager, Geri Brown, with her philosophy of "Children's needs first!"

Sign Language interpreters provide equal access to D/HH staff and students in the educational settings. They facilitate communication between D/HH students and their hearing peers and educational staff. Interpreters can be found everywhere, from the wrestling mat to the Board of Education meetings, from Juvenile Hall to Pre-Calculus, under the engine of a car or on the floor of a kindergarten classroom. Interpreters must be knowledgeable in a variety of subject areas and flexible. The use of interpreters provides D/HH students access not only in educational but also social settings. Through the interpreter these students can also be fully engaged in classroom discussions. A more recent addition to support services available to students is Educational Transcribing. Transcribers, found mostly in the back corner of the classroom, paraphrase class lectures and discussions during and type it into a laptop computer. The student is provided with a laptop during class where they can follow lectures/discussions in real time. After editing, transcribers then provide students with a printed copy of notes from the class. Feel free to visit our model of excellence in room B18B at Madison High School.



DIABETES PREVENTION 24/7

Students from Madison High School are committed to helping to find a cure for diabetes.

This year we have started a new club, Diabetes Prevention 24/7, to help further the mission of the American Diabetes Association: *to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.*

Students will learn more about diabetes and their own health choices. The American Diabetes Association has provided a series of lesson plans that promote healthy living and can be incorporated into classes including art, writing, civics and technology. Student leaders who are working hard to plan this event and raise money for the American Diabetes Association will also earn credit for community service requirements.

Today more than 20.8 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes. Diabetes is a condition where the body either does not make enough insulin or can't use the insulin it does make. The two most common types of diabetes are:

- **Type 1 diabetes** – when the body destroys its own insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.
- **Type 2 diabetes** – when the body is either not making enough insulin or can't use the insulin it does make. Eating healthy foods and regularly exercising can help prevent type 2 diabetes.

In addition to learning about Diabetes and its preventions, it is one of our club goals is to help raise funds to fight Diabetes. When we raise funds, our school also benefits. Schools raising \$1,000 or more earn a percentage back for physical education equipment and school medical supplies. Please visit our website if you would like to donate:
(Do not use www) <http://main.diabetes.org/goto/jamesmadison>.

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes is a disease where the body either does not produce enough insulin or the insulin it produces is not used properly. Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy.

In a person with type 1 diabetes, the body does not produce insulin. Type 1 diabetes can not be prevented.

In a person with type 2 diabetes, the body does not produce enough insulin and the body doesn't use insulin well. Type 2 diabetes can be prevented in some instances and managed by making healthier choices about food and exercise.

There is no cure for diabetes.

Facts About Diabetes

- 20.8 million Americans have diabetes.
- Approximately 176,500 of these are youths under age 18. Most of these kids have type 1 diabetes.
- Diabetes contributed to the deaths of approximately 224,092 Americans in 2002. This is more than from AIDS, breast cancer or many other chronic diseases.
- Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death.
- According to a recent report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in three Americans born in 2000 (today's kindergarteners) will develop type 2 diabetes unless those at risk change their lifestyles (eat less and exercise more).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - December 2007, January and February 2008

December			
Date	Event	Time	Location
14	Grade reports sent home with students - first twelve weeks of school		Distributed in Advisory
19	Kroc Middle School – “Picture Yourself at Madison” - Assembly/Tour	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Performing Arts Center
20	Winter Concert – Band and Chorus with CPMA Intermediate Choir		
24- 31	Winter Break – School closed		
January			
1-4	Winter Break – School closed	7:00 p.m.	Madison
10	English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)	5:30 p.m.	Room 101
15	12 th Grade Financial Aid Workshop 6:30 p.m. – Student Dining Room	6:30 p.m.	Student Dining Room
15	SSC Meeting	5:00 p.m.	Room 101
16	PTSA Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Room 101
21	Martin Luther King Holiday – No school		
23	CPMA – “Picture Yourself at Madison” - Assembly/Tour	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Performing Arts Center
25	Madison Morning	8:00 -9:00 a.m.	Room 101
26	12 th Grade FAFSA Online Workshop	9:00 a.m.	Library
31	Final Exams Semester 1 – Minimum Day (periods 2, 4, and 6)	7:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Classrooms
February			
1	Final Exams Semester 1 – Minimum Day (periods 1, 3, and 5)	7:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Classrooms
2, 23	12 th Grade FAFSA Online Workshop	9:00 a.m.	Library
5 – 6	12 TH Grade CAHSEE (selected students)		
7	English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC)	5:30 p.m.	Room 101
8	Report cards distributed in advisory classes and mailed home		
12	PTSA Meeting	5:00 p.m.	Room 101
12 -14	Drama Program , <i>Barefoot in the Park</i>	7:00 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
13	10 th Grade College Planning Night	6:30 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
19	SSC Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Room 101
15	Holiday – Lincoln’s Birthday celebrated – No school		
18	Holiday – Washington’s Birthday celebrated – No school		
20	PTSA Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Room 101
20	Winter Choral Concert	7:00 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
22	Madison Morning	8:00 -9:00 a.m.	Room 101

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