



HAWKTALK

MADISON PTSA/SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Volume XLV, Issue 3

January - February 2008

From the Principal:

We have just completed half of the 2007-08 school year. You should have already received the fall semester permanent report card reflecting your student's achievement. Look through the Hawktalk for students that have excelled this first semester. This is a good time to talk to your son and daughter and to discuss how things are going and set new goals. February 4th marked the beginning of a new semester with an opportunity for a fresh start.

There are many opportunities for Madison students to excel and get needed support. Our 21st Century Program provides after-school tutoring, computer access and enrichment opportunities, Monday – Friday from 2:30 -5:30 p.m. Some of the new offerings include knitting, jewelry, dance, computers, American Sign Language, dance, choir, drama and robotics.

January through March is the time our current seniors are getting acceptances from four year college and universities. It is also the time when current 9-11th grade students select their courses for next year. I encourage you to review your son/daughter's selections carefully, discuss goals for the future together, and enlist the expertise of the school counselor. Madison has been showcasing our model programs at home for both Kroc, and at the Creative Performing Media Arts Academy. Madison hosted a joint winter concert that was well received and attended. Our drama production received rave reviews from the community.

The state accountability system in place is at the forefront for the school and student. The California High School Exit Exam's purpose is to ensure that pupils who graduate from high school have demonstrated grade level competency in reading, writing, and mathematics. It requires all students to pass exams in language arts and mathematics to receive a high school diploma. The school district has used the results of previous testing to help prepare students for the upcoming March 11 and 12 CAHSEE exam where all tenth graders will take the exam for the first time.

Currently we have CAHSEE English and math classes offered both during school and after school to provide additional intensive support. In addition, all of our advisory teachers have been trained by Princeton Review in test taking strategies which they will teach to our students during advisory class. You can help as parents by encouraging preparation to continue at home and seeing that your son or daughter has good attendance. If you would like some sample books, please stop by any time and see Mr. Nash, vice principal. We are passionate about preparing all our students for the CAHSEE exam and for the world they will enter after graduation. Parents are an important ingredient in the success of this joint mission. Thank you for your involvement and support.

We are actively writing grants to support our school. Madison recently received a \$25,000 grant with Biogen Idec, our partner, which will be used to support science, robotics, journalism, school garden, bus to Pt. Loma Nazarene College and other instructional needs. We have written a Nell-Soto Grant to increase parent involvement and plan to use this money to support parenting classes, increase parent conferences, and to provide a bus for parents to attend the upcoming National College Fair. Our Gear-Up Grant proposal that we have written would provide an additional counselor for the Madison Cluster.

The Program Improvement Leadership Team has been meeting regularly and has written a restructuring plan to present to the Board of Education in March. Components in the plan include providing a weekly late start day each Wednesday to provide time for teachers to collaborate, plan together, analyze student work, design support interventions, and monitor student success. Lead teachers would be identified to work with our well-trained Striving Reader's resource teacher. An academic support class will be required for students scoring below basic on state and district assessments. Students in our Striving Reader's Program have shown tremendous growth and we are excited to provide more supports to Madison students. We welcome your input.

Go Warhawks!
Carol Whaley

From the PTSA President:

As you may already be aware, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has recently announced a fiscal emergency for the State of California. He is recommending significant budget reductions which include potential \$80 million in cuts to the San Diego Unified School District. Per Lorene Joosten, VP & Director of Legislation for the Ninth District PTA, this was the topic of discussion at the recent Ninth District PTA Founders Day Breakfast. Guest speakers Pam Brady, California State PTA President, and Kevin Gordon, education advocate for the San Diego County Office of Education, focused on the magnitude of the Governor's cuts to education and what the proposed cuts will mean for San Diego area schools. Emphasis was placed on the need for all PTA members to mobilize and advocate for the rights of children. A call to action has been issued with a request for all parents to download letters from the Ninth District PTA web site (www.NinthDistrictPTA.org) and send them to our state legislators. You can locate your representatives on the following site: www.capwebworks.com/addresslookup/lookup.aspx. The proposed cuts to education are the worst in California history. We need everyone to speak up and demand that our legislators take all needed steps to prevent this from happening to our children and schools.

The Board of Education will also be discussing the current and next year's budgets in upcoming meetings scheduled for February 25 and 26, 2008 and March 07, 2008. All meetings are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Suggestions can be made through the district's "About the Budget" page at www.sandi.net/budget. Meeting locations can also be confirmed at this web site.

As members of the PTSA we need to work together now more than ever on behalf of our students. Upcoming scholarship fundraising opportunities include 2 dates for lunch at Outback Steakhouse in the Clairemont Square: Saturday, March 15, 2008 - 12:00 - 2:00 pm - \$10.00 lunch to benefit PTSA Scholarships and Saturday, May 17, 2008 - 12:00 - 2:00 pm - \$10.00 lunch to benefit Madison Foundation Scholarships. The Madison PTSA and Foundation work together to maximize the number and amounts of scholarships we are able to provide to our students. Please email ticket requests to peacockmichael@netscape.net We are limited to 200 tickets per day and we sell out quickly so order early!

Thanks for all your support on behalf of our Warhawk students!
Tanya Peacock
President
James Madison PTSA

General News

Madison Mornings

Meet informally with the Principal and the administrative team, March 28 and April 25, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. each day for coffee and conversation about the school.



Fundraising Opportunities

Here are 4 fundraising opportunities for Madison High School in the next few months.

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 - All Day - Madison Day at Applebee's 15% to PTSA
Saturday, February 23, 2008 - 7:00 to 11:00 am - Rummage Sale to benefit Class of 2008

Saturday, March 15, 2008 - 12:00 - 2:00 pm - Outback Steakhouse \$10.00 lunch to benefit PTSA Scholarships.
Saturday, May 17, 2008 - 12:00 - 2:00 pm - Outback Steakhouse \$10.00 lunch to benefit Madison Foundation Scholarships.
Outback tickets on sale at Rummage Sale or send an e-mail to peacockmichael@netscape.net and indicate how many tickets you would like.

Please pass this message on to anyone you think might be interested. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!
Michael Peacock



Food Services

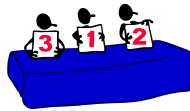
For many years, Food Services had access to a privately-funded program called the Bosch Fund, which allowed students who forgot their lunch money or had difficulty paying for meals to receive free meals for one or two days. This program has been discontinued due to lack of private funds. If a student is having difficulty paying for meals, make sure the family has been given the opportunity to submit a [Meals Application](#). Free and reduced-meal applications are available to district students throughout the school year, including summer school. The parents/guardians of a paying student can deposit money into the student's meal account through the school cafeteria or on-line via the [PayPAMS](#) Support System Program. For assistance, contact the Food Services Financial Section at (858) 627-7328.



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.



Senior Exhibition Panel Members

If you are interested in being a panel member for Senior Exhibitions on May 16, 2008, please contact the Employer Outreach Specialist at (858) 465-8410 x2232 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.

Twenty-First Century Grant



Parents can help build bridges to college.

Choosing a college for your student can be a daunting experience. Parents are often confused by what to look for, what questions to ask, and what options are available to help pay for college. Madison's Building Bridges to College program can help. Parents of sophomore and juniors at Madison are invited to join us for a free dinner at Madison High School and a fieldtrip to the National College Fair at the San Diego Convention Center on Thursday, April 10, 5-9 p.m.

The National College Fair offers an exciting opportunity for parents and students to talk to the people in the know about getting to college. Madison High Guidance Counselors and other staff will be on-hand at the dinner to answer your questions about getting to college and admission representatives from a variety of colleges will be gathered in one location at the convention center ready to answer your questions.

"Often parents don't know where to begin in helping their student select the best college to meet their needs. That's what Madison's Building Bridges to College evening is all about," said Carol Sobek, Head Counselor at Madison. We want to give parents and students a leg up on choosing college."

Madison's Building Bridges to College evening will begin with dinner at Madison High School starting at 5 p.m. At 6 p.m. parents/students will board a school bus for a short trip to the San Diego Convention Center. The bus will return to Madison by 8:30 p.m. In addition, to providing dinner at Madison, the staff will provide information about what to look for in a college, what questions to ask at a college fair, and financial aid information. Parents will also receive a list of participating colleges and information about how to make the most of their time at the fair.

Please RSVP to 858-496-8410 x2232 or e-mail [Adrianna Gutierrez at mgutierrez@sandi.net](mailto:Adrianna.Gutierrez@mgutierrez@sandi.net).



Academic League

We are starting our 2008 season!!! We have been busy practicing all year and look forward to competing against other schools in the district during our two-month long season. If you are interested in trivia, or would just like to show your support, our schedule will be posted on our school website!! For those students who are still interested in joining we practice Wednesdays at lunch in room 109. Come join us!!

First Semester Honor Roll



Congratulations to these 293 students for their fine efforts during first semester!

Students whose names are marked with an asterisk received a semester Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0 or higher!

9th Grade

- Arlyn Abanes
- Lance Aguon
- Ian Ainsworth
- Farwa Akbar
- Kuulei Alameda
- Lucas Allen
- Kiani Ammons
- Karla Anguiano
- Aaron Barbosa
- Villy Jean Belmonte*
- Michael Bielema
- Patrick Cassidy*
- Paisley Centeno
- Juan Chavez
- Michelle Chi
- Cameron Curtis
- Amanda Davenport
- Christine De Forrest
- Joshua Deal
- Sarah Engelhardt
- Beverly Escoto
- Mitchell Esser
- Alejandra Flores
- Enrique Gallardo
- Jorge Garcia
- Maria Goggins
- Laci Gordon
- Tyler Hartwell
- Aracely Hernandez
- Zane Holloway
- Adriel Hora*
- Ashley Jaime
- Elizabeth Jennings
- Sean Jensen
- Yuze Ling*
- Fernanda Lopez
- Jasmine Lucero
- Aaron Martinez
- Olga Martinez*
- Branden McMullen
- Steven Medina
- Vanessa-Joy Mejia
- Sibert Melara
- Hamdi Mohamed
- Kristine Nguyen
- Thinh Nguyen
- Vinh Nguyen
- Stephen Paul
- John Peacock
- Juan Pena
- Myles Ratliff
- Esmeralda Salas
- Arturo Santana
- Jacob Schmidt
- Justin Seaman
- Trevor Seymour
- Ranny Sitthideth
- Paola Solis
- Timothy Taillac
- Bryant To
- Saul Torres-Noriega
- Judy Tran
- Rebecca Tran*
- Ashley Williams
- Omar Yanez
- Christopher Zaleski
- Alicia Zamora*

10th Grade

- Brianna Abanira
- Alexandria Antonio
- Dallas Arrington*
- Sharon Aumoeualogo*
- Danielle Bobritchi
- Valeria Caballero
- Truc Cao*
- Michelle Chareunsouk
- Allison Clark
- Alison Corbella
- Whitney Cotter
- Brian Crie*
- Danial Dami*
- Sarah DeSantis
- Howard Diep*
- Jeffrey Dumpit
- Lily Duong*
- Susana Fadely
- Anjelika Ferguson*
- Haley Fridell*
- Garett Gallacher
- Elias Garibay
- Marcos Garibay
- Esteban Grogg
- Jeremiah Jeffries
- Derrinikka Joiner
- Mariah Kennedy
- Dylan Le
- Thomas LeDay
- Jonalyn Lema*
- Jenny Luu*
- Andre McCorley
- Christina Monji*
- Jennifer Morgan*
- Cristina Mosqueda*
- David Nguyen
- Que Nguyen
- Joseph O'Loughlin*
- Taylor Patrick*
- Kimberly Penick*
- Lisa Phan*
- Tiffanee Plaschka*
- Diane Polanco
- Linda Quang*
- Imelda Ramirez
- David Ranchos
- Samuel Rickert*
- Jose Rios
- Victoria Rios*
- Alec Robertson
- Daisy Rosales*
- Armando SilvaDeLaCruz
- Chalee Sithong
- Travis Thacker
- Kou Thao
- James To
- Jennifer Tran
- Robert Turner
- Edward Valencia
- Rachel Watkins
- Vincent Westgate*
- Michael Wirges*
- Jesus Zepa*

11th Grade

Shane Allen*
Ryan Alvarado*
Francisco Antonio
Joanna Arevalo
Mohamad Bailouni
Tiffany Baptiste
Frederic Borchert
Athena Boulton
Torrie Brickley
Melinda Bristow
Molly Carter
Robert Choate
Spencer Dahlman*
Jessica Davis*
Luis De Los Santos
Dante Dolphin
Meagan Duber
Landon Frawley
Regina Gallardo
Zara Georgeo
Ashly Getz
Jorge Gonzalez*
Robert Gowin
Johnell Jackson
Myra Jefferson
Jasmine Jenkins*
Amairani Jimenez*
Drew Johnson*
Quyen Le*
Alethea Loanzon
Leilani Manaole
Alexandra Mango
Benjamin Martinez*

Jessica Medina
Said Morgan*
Albert Nguyen
William O'Gorman
Jonathan Olave*
Luis Ortega
Christopher Overall
Florence Pagdilao
Kole Parker
Maria Pastor
Alan Paul
Marcela Perez
Jasmine Phillips
Jessica Plaschka*
Whitney Reyes
Moses Robosa
Lorena Romero
Robert Rouse*
Hugo Ruiz
Victoria Sanchez
Leitu Savusa
Kali Sherer
Mallory Shirazi
Lindsay Strack
Ariana Thomas
Kelly To*
Lindsey Van
Viviana Vasquez
Amanda Wentworth*
Krystal Wetsel*
Christine Yang*
Ellaïne Joy Zapata
Aleksy Zeltser

12th Grade

Jonathon Albert*
Shea Alston
Ryan Alvarado
Rebecca Arrington*
Trisha Aune*
Carly Baker*
Danielle Behnke*
Kaycee Bidwell
Joe Bobadilla*
Allison Brookover
Megan Brookover
Vanessa Brown*
Anita Brule*
Gretel Campos
Nicole Cardon
Tania Carreon
Brianda Carrillo
Anh Chang*
Jamie Conover*
Katie Conover*
Jaclyn Corbella
Jennifer Creeden*
Ariel Culver*
Kelsey Curtis*
Kathleen Dang*
Veronica Dave*
Jeffrey Dinter
Thomas Dyvad
Joey Englebright
Rody Fabila
Caleb Firebaugh
Peter Fonteneau*
Phillip Fowler
Jacquelyn Franklin
Jessica Fremland*
Luz Gallardo
Amanda Garcia
Wendy Gasca
Abiel Georgeo
Amanda Goertz*
Sarah Grayson
Laura Gregorich*
Joseph Hernandez
Chantal Hernandez*
Shaina Hora*
Gerardo Jaimes
Eric Jensen
Letitia Johnson-Smith*
Chelsea Kennedy*

Adam King
Brittany Klein
Ashleigh Klein*
Zachary Lemons*
Chen Ling*
Rochelle Manion*
Paul Marin*
Arielle-Maree Mejia
Diana Mondragon*
Samantha Montgomery
Eliot Napalan
Dinh Nguyen
Hong "Julie" Nguyen
Khang "Andy" Nguyen
Sarah Northrop*
Rachel Oliver*
Marcus Parker*
Nicholas Perez
Vy Pham
Diem Phanle*
Victoria Quintanar*
Paolo Ramos*
Kristopher Renfro
James Ruby*
Dygo Saito*
Neftali Salgado
Casey Sanchez*
Benjamin Schneider-Haney*
Amanda Schoppmeyer*
Saiclyn Sithong*
Elena Solano*
Alberemy Solis
Paris Taggett
Paulina Thomas
Toan Tran*
Anthony Valkoun
Victoria VanBerlo*
Laurie Vanderzee
Alex Vangorkom*
Ma Carla Velasquez*
Jessie Vincent*
Heather Vuong
Sierra Williams*
Whitney Witkowski
Ja'nee Womack*
Thomas Wroblewski
Susan Yang*
Jie Yu





California Scholastic Federation

If you are a student or parent of a student who has a GPA of 3.7 or above, there is a good chance that you/they are eligible for this state-sponsored Honor Society. Students must submit a transcript and an application each semester. Members receive special recognition at graduation and they also have the ability to apply for special scholarships. Membership in CSF looks great on an application to colleges and universities look for these types of distinctions. If you are interested or have questions please contact Ms. Anderson in room 109.



Congratulations!

Every year, the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge sponsors Youth Leadership Conferences. This year we are particularly pleased to have four of our juniors selected to attend these prestigious conferences. In San Diego Unified School District, only 30 exceptional high school juniors are chosen at large and another 10 are chosen from the district's thirteen ROTC units. This year's honored attendees are Shane Allen, Cody Wiles, Christine Yang and Johnell Jackson. We are extremely proud of all of our students and especially those who so honor themselves and our campus.

Yearbook

Do you have a senior? Use your credit card and purchase the yearbook as a graduation gift online at www.buyyearbook.com (school id: 8023820). At the financial office the cost of the yearbook is \$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. 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 or rrice@sandi.net.

From the Guidance Department

Testing, Testing, and More Testing!



Class of 2009 SAT and ACT Testing for College Admission

Juniors were advised to take the January 26 SAT I for the first time. The next recommended opportunities will be the March 1 SAT I (February 7 late registration deadline), April 12 ACT (March 7 registration deadline) and June 3 SAT II (Subject Tests – April 1 deadline). Students can register online at www.collegeboard.com and www.act.com, and fee waivers are available from April Avery, Registrar, for students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch. A series of three Saturday SAT Prep Workshops will be offered on April 5, 19, and 26 to the first sixty 11th graders to meet the registration deadline, through the generosity of Madison alumni, Justin and Linda Lee. Juniors should inquire about registration with their counselor during course selection in February and March.

Class of 2010 California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

All tenth graders will be taking the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) for the first time on March 11 and 12. It is critical that all tenth graders attend both days! The Language Arts sections will be given in their advisory on March 11 and the Mathematics section will be administered the same way on March 12. Passing the CAHSEE is a requirement in order to receive a diploma for the Class of 2010. Students who do NOT pass both sections of the exam this year will be given three opportunities in 11th and 12th grade to pass, but most tenth graders meet success on the exam and have considerable stress removed from their lives, having completed the requirement early.

STAR Testing for Grades 9-11: April 30-May 1 and May 6-7

Madison students in grade 9-11 will be taking the California Standards Tests in a special testing schedule on April 30, May 1, 6, and 7. Information will be sent home in April, but as a parent you can support your child's efforts the following ways:

Provide the Framework:

- ❖ Sufficient sleep
- ❖ Balanced diet
- ❖ Healthy snack in backpack for all testing days
- ❖ Promoting a “You can do it!” spirit
- ❖ Perfect attendance.... in class, on time, no appointments
- ❖ Promoting exercise for stress relief
- ❖ Asking about the day’s testing each evening

Try the following activities to promote literacy and math skills:

Use math with your student while:

- ❖ Doing games and puzzles
- ❖ Grocery shopping
- ❖ Cooking
- ❖ Planning a family vacation or outing
- ❖ Discussing jobs that use math
- ❖ Determining sale prices using percentages
- ❖ Measuring athletic activities

Support literacy for your student by:

- ❖ Engaging in paired reading (reading aloud together, coaching the student with difficult words, and stopping to discuss)
- ❖ Selecting books together by visiting the library or bookstore
- ❖ Limiting video game or TV time; replacing it with quiet reading time
- ❖ Encouraging your student to summarize verbally what he/she has read
- ❖ Helping your student with difficult words
- ❖ Praising your student’s reading habits



Encourage your student to work hard in Madison courses. They are geared to the CA State Department of Education Curriculum Standards, which are reflected on these important STAR tests!

AP Test Orders and Payment Due by March 26

Students who are enrolled in AP classes are required to take the AP test! Your student will receive a packet with all the ordering resources and the fee structure for this year during the week of February 11. Full payment for exams will be due no later than March 26 to the Financial Office, unless special arrangements have been made. Each test will be \$84 this year. Students who believe they will qualify for a fee reduction will see Mrs. Avery for the guidelines and necessary forms, allowing them to pay \$13 for each exam. There will be no late orders for exams. If a student has a conflict with the STAR exams, which are administered to grades 9-11 on May 6 (AP Spanish Language and AP Statistics), a makeup STAR exam will be scheduled on an individual basis. These exams will be administered on our campus.

2008 Exam Calendar - Week 1		
	Morning – 7:30 a.m.-Noon	Afternoon - Noon -4 p.m.
Monday, May 5		French Language
Tuesday, May 6	Spanish Language	Statistics
Thursday, May 8	English Literature	
Friday, May 9	United States History	European History

	Morning - 7:30 a.m.-Noon	Afternoon - Noon -4 p.m.
Monday, May 12	Biology	
Tuesday, May 13	Environmental Science	Psychology
Wednesday, May 14	English Language	Art History

Class of 2008 College Bound

Our seniors are beginning to receive **offers of college admission** from colleges and universities around the country. Although UC campuses will not begin to notify until mid-March, some of the CSU campuses have already been notifying our seniors of admission. These are exciting times! As students are admitted to specific campuses, they should bring their notification of admission to the Counseling Center so Ms. Winters can affix their name to our huge college map. Students will need to commit to their college of choice no later than May 1, 2008. We are delighted to assist them in making that important decision.

Over 95 parents and seniors attended the **Financial Aid Workshop** on Tuesday, January 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Dining Room. Each received a portfolio of resources that will be helpful in completing the Financial Aid process. Parents learned how to complete a FAFSA, analyze a financial aid offer, decode the ABC's of financial aid, and how to meet all deadlines for Cal Grant qualification. **The deadline for electronically submitting the FAFSA is March 2, 2008.** We offered online workshops to parents on Saturday, January 26 and February 2 and met individually with students and parents to complete the FAFSA during February. The GPA Verification Forms for Cal-Grants were due to Mrs. Avery in January, and we are electronically submitting this form to the California Student Aid Commission this month. Go seniors!

Course Selection for 2008-2009 for All Grades

Students were given course selection materials in their English classes February 11-12 (Grade 11), February 19-20 (Grade 10), and February 21-22 (Grade 9). Parents of 10th graders were invited to a special evening presentation by the Madison counselors on February 13 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the PAC, reviewing graduation and college admission requirements, financial aid and scholarship information, and testing required for the Class of 2010, including a brief practice CAHSEE exam for parents! Parents will be particularly interested in the **Course Description and Educational Planning 2008-2009** booklet, which contains a detailed description of each course in grades 9-12 and a wealth of information about college admissions and testing. The counselors shared an important presentation about UC eligibility, requirements for a SDUSD diploma, available courses, and the process for securing courses for next year in each English class. Each student was given a current transcript reflecting the completion of graduation requirements. *Current achievement will determine whether or not the student progresses onto the next course, or even on to the next grade.* Completed cards are due to the counselor for the one-on-one visit on February 26-27 (Grade 11), March 4-5 (Grade 10) and March 6-7 (Grade 9). Students who meet the deadline and have a parent signature on their Course Preference Card will receive priority placement in electives. Thank you for helping your student with this important process.

Mrs. Carol Sobek	Head Counselor/Seminar	858-496-8410	x2210	csobek@sandi.net
Ms. Katherine Lloyd	A-Gal		x2223	klloyd1@sandi.net
Ms. Catie Winters	Gar-O		x2211	cwinters@sandi.net
Ms. Michelle Francescotti	P-Z		x2233	mfrancescotti@sandi.net

New Course Offering

Madison continues to expand its offerings to the student body by offering courses that are relevant and transferable across many occupational tracks. Next school year, Madison will offer Marketing 1, 2 course number 0801. This course introduces students to the world of marketing, both theoretical and practical. Students can learn marketing principles, become aware of the fundamentals of world economics and prepare themselves for business careers and higher education.

Marketing will prepare students for marketing positions in a wide variety of settings, including small business, corporate and non-profit. Students will acquire skills in the areas of product planning, buying, pricing, and promotion and distribution, as well as gaining knowledge of different sales techniques and strategies. Students will learn the essential principles of marketing a product, marketing a service, marketing an idea, and marketing oneself. This course is especially suitable for potential business majors, but is excellent information for any field. Madison is committed to helping students transition to college and the workforce. For more information, please check with your students' counselor.

News from the Health Office

by Bev Bembridge, RN

Is your child on drugs, alcohol or abusing prescription medication or over the counter medication? Has he/she tried them? Would you know? Have you wondered why a teenager would smoke, snort, swallow, inhale or inject something into their body that can potentially harm them? Do you have a high achieving student that "would never" do such a thing?



A few reasons teens may do drugs is they feel a strong sense of well being or being in control; music may sound better, and the sense of touch may be heightened. Some users are simply curious and figure one try won't hurt. Others want to fit in and succumb to peer pressure. A few may use drugs to gain attention from their parents. High achievers may use illicit drugs to stay awake to study or boost energy to cope with heavy academic and extracurricular loads. Others want to become more active or better athletes. Some may be depressed or think drugs will help them escape their problems. The truth is, drugs or alcohol can ruin every aspect of a person's life. Consequences of drug/alcohol use remain serious as relationships and friendships are ruined, or trouble with the law develops. Physical effects may range from irritability, insomnia, aggressiveness, slow cognitive and motor function to increased blood pressure and heart rate, heart attack, respiratory failure, seizures, liver/brain damage or death.

According to the U.S Department Bureau of Justice Statistics, a report of High School seniors states 66.5% of seniors had used alcohol within the last year, 31.5% used marijuana, 9.0% other opiates, 8.1% stimulants, 6.6% sedatives, 5.7% cocaine. The percentage of High School seniors reporting they could easily obtain drugs in 2006, was: 84.9% for Marijuana, 52.9% for amphetamines, 46% for cocaine and 29% for LSD.

Ask yourself: Does your child avoid you, stay in their room? Have their grades fallen? Have they lost interest in their usual enjoyable activities? Do they have a change in friends? Are they lying, making excuses or exhibiting mood swings? Do they have bursts of energy and lethargy? Do they eat frequently or not enough? Have you found paraphernalia such as rolling papers, mirrors, pill bottles etc.?

The bottom line: Research and experience has shown that parents have the greatest influence on kids, and no one is more able to help them grow drug-free. Starting early with such conversations, you can help form your child's attitude toward drugs. Keep it simple, but be firm about what you believe and the behavior you expect from them. Encourage your children to believe in themselves and take responsibility. Starting early to care for themselves, their toys and their clothing makes it less likely they will try drugs at an early age. Be a good role model and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Don't just talk to your children, but listen to them. Encourage them to tell you what they think and be patient with them. Know your kids' friends. Their friends will affect your child's life. Monitor the over the counter drugs in your home. Monitor your child's internet use. Be assured, taking a firm stand against drug use will not damage your relationship with your child. Most children will be grateful when you are clear and honest with them. Above all, if you suspect your child is involved with drugs or alcohol, contact your health care provider, school nurse or counselor for assistance in providing referrals.

From the Librarian

Literacy and technology are central to all curricula at Madison. Jennifer Lind's ceramics classes have been using library print and electronic resources to research masks. In preparation for constructing and painting their masks, students researched a culture that interested them. They then selected or designed a mask that represented that culture. Before actually constructing their masks, students wrote papers on either the relevance of masks to their culture or the development of ceramics in that culture. Masks will be on display in the library.

Jan Arnall, Librarian, x2236

MHS – A Unique School with Unique Programs

AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination at Work

Thirty-nine AVID students, grades 9-12, attended the annual AVID Region 9 fundraiser, a trip to Knott's Berry Farm on November 2. We added a visit to CSU Fullerton to our itinerary and made a weekend of it. At CSU Fullerton, we participated in a guided tour, taking notes (of course) about all the amazing features the campus has to offer, ate lunch in "The Pit" (the food court/bowling alley on campus) and shopped for souvenirs at the campus store. Next, we were off to Knott's where we ate too much junk food (yummy funnel cake) before embarking on intense roller coaster rides. The trip was informative and fun. Unfortunately, we had to miss Cal-Soap's College Fair as it was canceled due to the fires but our 9th, 10th and 11th graders can look forward to the fair in April at the Convention Center. Our next road trip is planned for CSU Northridge (date TBD). To help support our program, we are fundraising enthusiastically. Our snack box sales raised over \$2,000. Next, we plan to sell lanyards boasting "class of dates" (for example class of 2008).

Want to know more about AVID? Contact Lili Reeves (lreeves@sandi.net) or Nicole Peterson (npeterson@sandi.net) or call 858-496-8410.

GATE/SEMINAR Program

Rachel Rice, GATE Team Leader

Check out what your students are doing in GATE classes:

Mr. Staninger's AP Literature and Language class has rounded off the semester with a unit of Shakespeare. Students read and analyzed *Hamlet* and *Taming of the Shrew*. After the start of the new semester, students will be diving into Charles Dickens with a unit on *Great Expectations*. Students and parents can also expect an emphasis on AP test prep and practice tests.

In Ms. Anderson's AP French class, students continue to work in their Barron's test prep book while preparing for the AP exam. Students do weekly taped speaking and structured essays (all expectations on the AP exam). In addition to AP preparatory work, students will be working on a history project where they pick a famous French historical figure, research their life, create and generate an interview with the historical figure, and include visuals in their report.

Mrs. Rice's AP Composition and Language class has begun their detailed examination into how an artist constructs an argument. Students examine the nature of the argument, rhetorical methodology, type of argument constructed, and the logical fallacies an author generates. We are reading argumentative essays that range from the "MP3 downloading" argument to Jonathan Swifts "A Modest Proposal". Test prep continues on a weekly basis with practice multiple-choice examinations and practice essays.

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. Events included Cocoa and Cram on 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).

Striving Readers Project

By Jill Brownlee, Literacy Resource Teacher

For the Striving Readers Project, the first semester of this 2007-08 school year has been spent deep in expository and persuasive texts. Students in the elective intervention SLIC class have considered the unique features of both the expository and persuasive text form and have extensively analyzed what authors do in those types of texts. Most recently, we have researched controversial issues that affect the average American and written persuasive essays that take a stance on these issues.

The following are some examples of opening paragraphs written by our young writers. The first appeared on an essay addressing the "cruel and unusual punishment" nature of lethal injections while the second was in response to a prompt around legislators' influence on regulation of electronic devices for teens.

"Cruel is the electric chair. Cruel is being burned alive. Cruel is breaking a person's arm and legs and leaving him to die. In comparison to these types of executions, lethal injection is dignified, and less painful because before the criminal dies, he is put to sleep." Trayvon McCloud

"Many people in New York feel that electronic devices should be banned because of three accidents that recently happened. But the police have important crimes to focus on instead of dealing with iPods on the streets. Awareness is the best way to affect the situation instead of banning electronic devices." Ifrah A Aimad

We are very proud of the progress each student is making through this project. As the Striving Readers intervention teachers work with our ELL students around specific reading and writing strategies, our core content area teachers have also been looking to implement rigorous reading and writing tasks with appropriate support. With the goal of having both more proficiently literate students and a higher number of our population pass the CAHSEE the first time, we have our work cut out for us. We have seen much improvement, but are still struggling in many areas. Perhaps one of the biggest is that of finding the main idea of a whole piece of text. This seems simple and very unconscious for proficient readers including most adults, but when the complexities of the text are increased many individuals find their ability to determine the main idea of a whole piece of text weaker than anticipated. The more practice we can give students in determining the main idea and then talking about it the better.

As the teachers here at Madison focus the instruction on key literacy strategies and skills both in and out of content areas we plead for parents to support this work at home as well. Below you will find some tips on how to have main idea conversations with your students around a piece of text. (Feel free to email me if you have any questions about selecting texts or facilitating this conversation with your families at jbrownlee@sandi.net.) Together we can accomplish more than either of us can alone.

Home Literacy Tip:

Select a short piece of text from a household newspaper, magazine, or on-line article about once a week. Let this piece of text be the focus for discussion and analysis. 1) Have all those capable of reading the text read at their leisure prior to a set time for dis-

cussion. 2) Around the dinner table, before bed, or at a family breakfast discuss the main ideas of the text. The following questions may help you help your student.

- A. What was the author's purpose with this piece of text? Why do you think they wrote it? (To persuade a reader on some issue? To inform a reader on some event or issue?)
- B. What were the author's main ideas in the text? How did you figure those out? What did you put together to come up with those main ideas?
- C. Do you think the author has a bias on this topic? What in the text made you think the author has a bias?
- D. What did the author do in this piece of text? (Give the reader facts and evidence? Site an expert? Make some kind of claim on an issue? Use a short narrative story to support a point or contextualize an issue?)
- E. If this is around a controversial issue, what would be your stance? Why? What in this text might support your belief?
- F. Did you like the text? What did you like or dislike about it? What would you do to make it a better piece?

Departmental News

English

Tom Staninger, Department Chair

The California High School Exit Exam is coming up March 11th and 12th. Students must pass this test before they can receive a diploma. Tenth graders will be taking this test for the first time; last year 73% of our 10th graders passed the English portion on the first try and we are hoping to better that this year. All of the 10th grade English teachers have been given test preparation materials and have been utilizing them in the classroom. On the night before the test it is essential that students eat well and get plenty of sleep so that they may be at their best on test day.

Another thing we are excited about in our department is the use of the MYACCESS writing program. It is a computer based writing tool that gives students immediate feedback on their writing. We are piloting it exclusively with our 10th graders and so far it has been a rousing success. Students can access, edit, and/or modify their essays from any computer and get instant evaluations. Have your students show it to you!!!!

The best contribution a parent can make to his or her student's academic success is to be aware of what the student is reading or learning in each class and to monitor the daily work. Providing high interest reading material in the home is also essential to anyone's intellectual development. KEEP EVERYBODY IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD READING!!!!

Mathematics

John Cella, Department Chair

Hello Madison community. The California High School Exit Exam is a high stakes test that is fast approaching for students who attend high school in California. On March 11 and March 12, the sophomore class, along with any juniors who have not passed yet, will have an opportunity to pass this important test. The teachers in our math department have been integrating valuable components into our lesson plans to assist students who will be taking the test. Practice problems, test taking strategies and an emphasis on the target material will hopefully give our students a comfort level and familiarity with the exam and therefore decrease some of the anxiety associated with the exam.

We have also spent time reviewing and analyzing student work on common assessments to explore problem areas for students in an attempt to help increase student achievement. Much work has been done in advisory classes to stress the importance of performing well. Together, students, parents and teachers should reflect on their efforts and preparation and feel confident in our ability to get the job done. The math department wishes all of our students well in March and would like to remind them that after school tutoring is available in the library for those who need it.

Science

Damien Vanderburg, Department Chair

Science is proud to announce that we have teamed up again with the Biogen Idec Foundation who has awarded a sizable grant to our department for the second year in a row. We intend to use the money to further modernize our equipment, buy costly lab supplies, and purchase a new class set of chemistry books to supplement our current curricula. We wish to publicly thank Biogen Idec for their continued support. Thanks, guys!

As we approach "testing season" the biology department continues to cover the California course content standards that our students can expect to see on their state STAR tests. Most of the classes have recently finished units on the cell, and are moving through genetics. All biology students will be expected to take the biology content exam, and sophomores will be given an additional life sciences exam as required by the state. Our AP students are gearing up for their special exams at the beginning of May, and we wish them the best of luck as they continue to work their way through college-level material. On the lighter side, some of the classes will be involved in field trips, including an after-school excursion to the tidepools in La Jolla, and (thanks to a special \$1,000 NACME grant!) lessons with the Scripps Birch Aquarium for Ms. Moreno's D.a.T.A. classes.

Robotics competition season is here!! This year's game was revealed January 5th, and students across the globe have been scrambling to create, complete, and ship their robots. As a leader for "Team San Diego," Madison hosted a major event for 18+ teams in the area over our four-day President's Day weekend holiday, inviting other schools to test their robots and hold mock-competitions before the crucial February 19th shipping deadline. Please wish our very own Devil Duckies, team 1266, the best of luck in their competitions. Even better, come see them (for FREE!!) March 6-8 at the Sports Arena during the San Diego regional. The team will also be traveling to Las Vegas Feb. 27-March 1 to compete there, and we plan once again to attend the Championships in Atlanta April 16th-21st. Last year the team won international recognition with the Team Spirit award, and has high hopes to continue their successes this year.

Social Science

Will Hawthorne, Department Chair

An update on the Social Studies Department:

As the year moves closer to testing, all of the staff in the Social Studies department are working hard to support our students that need it most and catapult all others to higher achievement. Our department has gone through many changes in the last couple of school years. However, we have remained committed to bring a uniform and high quality of instruction for our students at Madison. With that in mind, our department has made efforts to create and maintain a database of standards based assessments both unit and semester finals. In addition, we are also creating and maintaining curriculum maps for all Social Studies subjects taught at Madison. Our goal is to create continuity within our department that will support our staff in providing standards based curriculum throughout our department from course to course and from class to class. We look forward to a great spring semester and a better 2008-2009 school year.

AJROTC

1st Sergeant William Mercado, Department Chair

JROTC Update
By C/LTC Kathleen Dang

Many events are happening with JROTC at Madison right now. The rifle season began on January 10th with Madison winning its first match against Serra High School in Madison's rifle range. On January 17th, Madison defeated Patrick Henry High School, also at home. Kearny High School hosted a match against Madison on January 24th, resulting in yet another win for Madison. Currently, the rifle team record is undefeated with 3-0. The rifle team includes Gretel Campos, Luz Gallardo, Adam Spahr, Alberemy Solis, and Daisy Suarez.

JROTC just competed at the Best Drilled Squad and Best Drilled Platoon competitions that took place on Saturday, February 2nd. This competition is held every winter in Madison's bus parking lot. This competition requires each school to bring thirty of their best drilled cadets to march and to drill with rifles. All thirteen JROTC schools in the district competed and brought lots of competitive spirit.

The Military Order of the World Wars held a selection board for the Freedoms Foundation Leadership Conference in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Thirty outstanding cadets were nominated by their ROTC units to attend the conference. Madison's nominees, two

outstanding Juniors, Christine Yang and Johnell Jackson, were interviewed and selected for this great honor and the all-expenses paid trip that will take them along with eight other cadets from all over San Diego to Valley Forge, PA to stay in Valley Forge National Park. After their stay in Valley Forge, they will visit Washington D.C., Arlington, VA, and Philadelphia, PA. Past honorees of this award are Kathleen Dang, Senior, and recent graduate, Ricardo Gonzalez. Congratulations to Christine and Johnell!

The Annual JROTC Military Ball will be taking place on Saturday, March 8th at the Town and Country Resort in Mission Valley. Cadets and their guests may attend this ball for \$42 per person. The Ball will include a formal sit down dinner, a military Color Guard presentation, a military Honor Guard presentation, and a three hour dance. Over 1,200 students are expected to attend this ball; students include cadets from all thirteen JROTC schools.

Now cadets here at Madison are preparing for their next competition, Cadet Challenge. This competition is a physical fitness competition that consists of five events: pull-ups, push-ups, sit-ups, standing broad jump, and the shuttle run. All thirteen schools in the district will meet in Madison's bus parking lot Thursday, March 27th at 4:00 PM to compete.

Keep up the great work, cadets!

Visual and Performing Arts

Jennifer Lind, Department Chair

Madison Choir News

Madison's Choir and Band students would like to thank Mr. Justin Lee for his generous contribution to the music department following the Winter Concert. Upcoming Choir Events include our May 2nd – African Drumming and Dancing Concert featuring Rhapsody in Blue, Women's Jazz, Hawthorne Elementary, and our special guests, Ho-Asogli.

Deaf and hard of Hearing

Joyce Brody, Department Chair

One of the many services provided to students with hearing loss is Communication Skills. The hearing world can be challenging to navigate. Our goal is to teach our students the skills to make them into independent communicators who can express themselves in a variety of ways.

One important feature of life is using telecommunications. We are very proud to have been able to implement Video Relay Service (VRS) stations in a number of our classrooms, and even in the campus library. The VRS system and the videophone equipment allows an individual with a hearing loss to call anyone who uses a telephone. It relies on a broadband internet connection to allow our students the opportunity to sign in real time to an interpreter. The interpreter then calls the telephone user and voices for the signer. As the telephone user speaks, the interpreter signs everything back to the person with the hearing loss, and similarly, as the Deaf person signs, the interpreter voices for the hearing person. The calls can be a little slow, but it's a much more efficient method of communication than the TTD or Telephone Telecommunications Device.

As a point of interest, VRS equipment is free of charge to anyone with a documented hearing loss. Here at Madison, we assist student with getting the equipment as well as teaching them how to use it. If anyone has a hearing family member with a hearing loss and would like more information about VRS, please contact us at 858-573-5859 or you can email Cynthia Konow-Brownell, MA, CCC-SLP, DHH Speech/ Communication Skills at cbrownell@sandi.net.

Wish our Deaf Academic Bowl Team good luck on February 28, - March 2, as they compete in the Western Regional Competition of the Deaf Academic Bowl in Colorado Springs, Colorado. If you would like to follow our team's progress, check out the website at: <http://www.gallaudet.edu/x4782.xml> GO WARHAWKS!

San Diego Unified School District
Madison High School
4833 Doliva Drive, San Diego, California 92117

**Madison High School
Compact Addendum**

Telephone: 858-496-8410
Fax: 858-496-8421

Carol Whaley
Principal

**Nell Soto Parent/Teacher Involvement Program
Home-School Compact Addendum**

February 2008

Dear Parents,

Our school has the opportunity to apply for the Nell Soto/Teacher Involvement grant to strengthen the communication between the school and families at MADISON. Our goal is to improve student achievement by hosting school-community meetings/events and as well as making home visits.

To qualify for the grant, we need the support of at least 50% of parents or guardians who agree to participate in either the school-community meetings and/or home visits. The home visits are voluntary and will be scheduled in advance and made by classroom teachers, or counselors. Interpreter services will be available for community meetings and home visits. The school-community meetings will be held in locations, and at times, convenient to families.

Please fill out the section below and have your student return it to his/her Advisory teacher as soon as possible, or mail it to the address above.

MADISON High School - Home-School Compact Addendum

I _____ agree participate in the voluntary school-community meetings
(Name of Parent)

and/or home visits. I understand that these meetings are designed to strengthen communication between home and school and provide parents with tools and strategies to support their students academically. I will receive advance notice of all home visits and community meetings related to this grant.

(Signature of Parent)

(Date)

(Printed Name of Parent)

(Name of your Student)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March and April 2008

March			
1	ASB Ball – Formal	8:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Hall of Champions, Balboa Park
11	SSC Meeting	5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Room 101
13	Madison Community of Schools Meeting	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Lindbergh-Schweitzer
	English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC)	10:00 a.m.	Room 101
	Madison Foundation Meeting	6:00 -7:30 p.m.	Room 1003
13 - 14	Talent Show	7:00 -9:00 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
17-23	Spring Vacation – No school		
24	Governance Team Meeting	2:30-3:30 p.m.	Room 101
25 -28	Principal's Honor Roll Assemblies: Grade 9 - March 25; Grade 10 - March 26; Grade 11- March 27; Grade 12 - March 28	9:23-9:53 a.m. each day	Performing Arts Center
28	Madison Morning	8:00 -9:00 a.m.	Room 101
	Six Week Progress Reports distributed in advisory classes		
April			
2	WASC Midterm One Day Visit		
3	English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC)	10:00 a.m.	Room 101
	Eleventh Grade College Night	6:30 -8:30 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
10	Multicultural Fair – Spring Open House	All day	
11	Madison Community of Schools Cluster Concert	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Performing Arts Center
15	SSC Meeting	5:00 -6:30 p.m.	Room 101
17	Madison Foundation Meeting	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Room 1003
21	Governance Team Meeting	2:30 -3:30 p.m.	Room 101
25	Madison Morning	8:00 -9:00 a.m.	Room 101
26	AJROTC Fancy Drill Competition	8:00 a.m.	Kearny High School
30	CST STAR Testing Grades 9-11 (Continues May 1, 6 and 7)	7:30 -11:30 a.m.	

JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL PTSA
 4833 Doliva Drive
 San Diego, CA 92117

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PTSA/SCHOOL NEWSLETTER