

The Carlmont Bagpiper

A Newsletter of the Carlmont PTSA

Carlmont High School 1400 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont CA 94002 650-595-0210

Volume LIII, Number 1

September 2007

A message from our principal...Andrea Jenoff

Welcome back to a great new school year. Thank-you freshman parents for choosing Carlmont as your school...2,200 parents and students can't be wrong!

As you have probably read in the newspapers – this year we are emphasizing safety. ***There have been no incidents that provoked this concentration.*** It is an area which I have wanted to ensure we have the best possible training and preparation in case of an emergency. Our teachers have just received “Code Red” (intruder) training. We will be having monthly drills for all types of emergencies. Of course, we have had procedures in place previously, but we want to fine tune and update according to the latest police research. We have partnered with the Belmont police in this effort. Our thanks to Chief Don Mattei and our returning school resource officer, Scott Fegley; they have been wonderful and always have student and adult safety as a top priority.

I am happy to have our students back after summer break. The campus is so empty without them. As usual we had a smooth opening of school. Students were in class, learning at 8:00 a.m. the first day of school. Our teachers are the best! As a parent, you can be assured your student is receiving an excellent education.

Please e-mail me (ajenoff@seq.org) if you have any concerns.

Carlmont's **website** is **carlmont.seq.org** and has quick links in the left column to the Bell Schedule, Comunicado, Campus Map, and other important information.

Our first **PTSA meeting** is Tuesday, Sept 11, at 7:30 pm in the Staff Lounge. All parents, guardians, students, and teachers are welcome. The meetings are 2nd Tuesdays. **PTSA meetings will be on Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 11, April 8, May 13.**

Back to School Night will be Thursday, Sept 20, at 7:00 pm. Parents can meet their students' teachers and hear about class requirements.

Friday, Sept 21 will be a **Minimum Day** – Period 1 starts at 7:55 am, Period 2 starts at 8:35 am, Period 6 ends at 11:25 am, Period 7 ends at 12:00.

The National PTA **Reflections Art Contest** now has six categories: Visual Arts, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Dance and Video. This contest is to encourage students to express themselves creatively through original works of art. The theme this year is “I Can Make a Difference by...”. Entries are due Tuesday, Nov 27.

Notes from the PTSA President

I encourage you to be involved at Carlmont. Keep in touch and come visit.

Check **Communicado** – your student’s own personalized website, where his or her classes, homework assignments, grades, and attendance are shown.

Read this PTSA **Bagpiper** monthly newsletter, posted on the Carlmont website.

Read the **Daily Bulletin**, which lists upcoming events, club meetings at lunch, sports tryouts, class car washes, college representative visitors, and more. Students should hear the Daily Bulletin in 4th period. Parents can find it on the lower left column of the Carlmont High School website, under “Newsflash” or sign up for daily emails (carlmont-daily-bulletin).

Join the **Parent Support Group** (PSG) for your student’s class (PSG 2011 is for the freshman class). Each PSG has its own email group to let parents know about meetings, lectures, and fundraisers (carlmont-psg2008, carlmont-psg2009, carlmont-psg2010, carlmont-psg2011).

Spend time on campus. **Parents can help** chaperone dances, set up Biology labs, sell snacks at the Student Store, tutor, and offer filing help to staff. PTSA sends out emails when there is a need for volunteers (carlmont-pta-volunteers).

To sign up for these email lists, please go to the Carlmont High School website: carlmont.seq.org and at the bottom of the left side blue column find the tab marked “Mailing Lists”. This takes you to the school district’s emailing list site which is arranged alphabetically so that Carlmont’s lists are together near the top. You can subscribe to (and unsubscribe from) the lists.

See you at school! Emily Sarver, esarver@comcast.net, or (650)592-6129

P.S. Your PTSA still needs chair people for the Honorary Service Awards committee and the Community Resources and Festivities committee. Contact me.

Introducing our new AVP

My name is Robert Fishtrom and I am the new Administrative Vice Principal at Carlmont High School. I will be working with the 9th and 11th grade students. Though this is my first year at Carlmont, it is my 13th in the Sequoia District. I spent my first 6 years teaching social studies and technology courses at Sequoia High School and spent the last 6 years as the District's Instructional Technology Specialist. Primarily, I worked with teachers and students to infuse technology into their curriculum.

On the personal side of things, I have been married for 13 years. My wife is a Home Economics teacher at Westmoor High School in Daly City. We have 3 beautiful daughters. Our oldest, Madison is 9 years old and is in 5th grade. Our second daughter, Sarah, is 7 and will be entering 2nd grade, and our youngest, Katie, is 4 ½ and will be starting Kindergarten this year.

I am very excited to be at Carlmont and look forward to contributing to the excellent programs this school offers. Please feel free to contact me at any time. My school phone is 595-0210 x3213 and I am accessible via e-mail at rfishtro@seq.org.

From Lynn R. Bailey, Instructional Vice Principal, and Tammy DePaoli, Head Guidance Counselor

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year! The first month is always exciting and busy. Our enrollment is estimated each year by the district office, but we never know the exact numbers until our students show up. It is not unusual for adjustments to be made to the master schedule when we find certain classes too large or too small. Our goal is to have all adjustments made by mid-September. Thank you for your patience during this busy time.

High school is a time to prepare for the real world, and students will have about 24 teachers during their four years at Carlmont. They will naturally like some more than others, and from time to time some students will be tempted to think that having a different teacher is the answer to whatever is troubling them at the moment. If concerns should arise, students are expected to talk to the teacher. If the concern persists parents may intervene and students can talk with guidance counselors or administrators. It is unlikely that parents will be calling college professors or future employers on behalf of their children, so we want to prepare students to solve their own problems. Taking responsibility is an important lesson for high school students to learn. It is also important for parents to remember that the key academic relationship is between the student and the teacher. Therefore, if parents have concerns about a particular class the first step is always to talk to the teacher in order to understand the other half of this relationship more completely.

Please be sure to sign up for a *Communicado* account so that you can communicate easily with your student's teachers and get easy access to information about attendance, grading, homework assignments, and class expectations. Links to the *Communicado* web page are located on the Carlmont web page at <http://www.carlmont.seq.org> or on the Sequoia District web page at <http://www.seq.org>.

Carlmont operates on a seven period day, even though many students have only six classes. This means that scheduling patterns of Period 1 - 6 and Period 2 - 7 must be maintained in order that all students can schedule for the classes they want and need to graduate. Requests to change from a Period 2 - 7 to a period 1 - 6 pattern, therefore, must be the lowest priority of schedule change and can rarely be honored. School must take first priority, and after-school jobs and other commitments should be scheduled around school as the first priority.

Another part of the responsibility of high school students is to keep their family informed of progress in classes. Naturally teachers also communicate progress through progress reports and report cards. Look for the first progress report to arrive at your home in early October. If you have questions please contact the teacher by email, phone, or through the *Communicado* web site.

We hope you all have a positive, successful experience at Carlmont this year. Thursday, September 20th is "**Back To School Night.**" You'll have a chance to visit each of your student's classes to meet the teachers and learn about course objectives. Please plan to attend!



Sports Boosters Are Calling All Carlmont Fans!

The CHS Sports Boosters are a group of parents who raise funds to support all the sports teams at Carlmont. To join the Boosters, pick up a flyer in the office or look on the website using the "Support Carlmont" tab. The Boosters offer the ScotsWear line (fleece, jackets, stadium blankets and chairs with a Carlmont logo).

To join Boosters or order ScotsWear, please contact Sports Booster president Donna Misa at 650-637-9685 or donna@dataprint.com.

Save the Date for the 13th Annual CHS Sports Boosters Crab Feed & Silent Auction

Come join us for a fantastic evening of Community, Fun, Food, and Fundraising that contributes *over \$20,000 each year* in financial support to Carlmont Athletics. This year's event will be held **Sat, 2/2/08** at Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos. Your ticket includes all-you-can-eat Fresh Dungeness Crab, Pasta, Salad, Beer, Wine, Coffee, Dessert & Musical Entertainment. This fabulous event sells out every year so buy your tickets early! Buy now and save \$5 per ticket! **Ticket price is \$65 if purchased before 12/15/07.** For more info or to help with this event, please contact Nina Stahl at nmsstahl@yahoo.com or 650-596-2837.

Save the Music Festival in the Park

Carlmont High School students and faculty will play a major role at the *Save the Music Festival in the Park* this fall. The Festival takes place on 6th Avenue, on the City Hall grounds, and in Twin Pines Park, in Belmont from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on **Sunday, October 14.**

The Carlmont Symphonic Band, under the direction of John DaBaldo, will perform on the Oracle Community Stage at 11:15. The Carlmont Chorus, led by Genevieve Sagi, will perform at 1:30, and then join the 100 Voice Community Chorus. Carlmont students will also be volunteering extensively throughout the Festival.

The *Tour de Redwood Shores Family Fun Bike Ride* begins the Festival at 9:30 a.m. in the Paragon Point parking lot, on the corner of Twin Dolphin Dr. and Lagoon, in Redwood Shores. Carlmont students and faculty, as well as family members, are invited to participate. Free bicycle safety checks will be performed from 8:00 to 9:30. Prizes will be awarded to the kids and adults with the best decorated bikes.

Learn more about the Festival at stmfestivalinthepark.com. At the website, you can buy tickets in advance, download forms to enter the Bike Ride or volunteer at the Festival, and learn about other performers and activities throughout the day.

Come to support Carlmont Performing Arts, and cheer on the riders. Stay to enjoy great music, food, and fun at *Save the Music Festival in the Park* on Sunday, October 14.

AVID NEWS

Welcome to our new and returning staff: Melissa Hero (Coordinator, 12th Grade Teacher); Tammy DePaoli (Head Guidance Counselor); Dan Raffa and Michelle McKee (11th Grade Teachers); Catherine Reed and Amy Stewart (10th Grade Teachers); Sarah Clarke and Hai Nguyen (9th Grade Teachers).

Mark your calendars! The AVID Team has been working over the summer to plan some great activities and curriculum for the school year. FAMILY NIGHT - September 4th; SENIOR OVERNIGHT RETREAT - September 12th & 13th; UC DAVIS, UC BERKELEY, SACRAMENTO STATE, ST. MARY'S (OVERNIGHT BUS TRIP) - October 25th & 26th; FRESH CHOICE FUND RAISER - October 18th.

AVID **help needed** and welcomed!! We are looking for **drivers and chaperones** for the above trips. We are always in need of **tutors** (one to four hours a week) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:52 - 10:42 and 10:48 - 11:43. Two Fridays a month we have **speakers** from all different backgrounds and careers - same times as above. Due to budget cuts, AVID is in need of **monetary** (to help with costs of buses for field trips) and **supply** (binders and school supplies) **donations**. We are also holding our second annual CRAFT FAIRE on November 3rd and are looking for vendors and volunteers.

For more information about the program; to request an application, to volunteer as a driver, chaperone, tutor or speaker; or to make a donation, please contact Melissa Hero at mhero@seq.org or 650.595.0201 x 3209.

Business Technology Academy Seeks Mentors

Would you like to be a career role model for a student who has none? Can you give guidance about additional education, motivation, and career choice? Can you be a great listener to a student who needs to communicate? Carlmont's school within a school, the Business Technology Academy is looking for adult mentors from the business world to meet with juniors monthly through the school year. Please contact teacher Chris Eggert at ceggert@seq.org.

College Preparation

Connie Dominguez, Carlmont's Director of College Advising, invites parents to join her email list to receive timely information about researching college options, taking the SAT and ACT tests, finding scholarships, writing essays, and applying to colleges. Send an email request to cdomingu@seq.org with your name and your student's grade. Parents can also call her at 595-0210, x3110 for an appointment.

SAT and ACT registration dates

Register by September 10 for SAT on October 6

Register by September 21 for ACT on October 27

Register by October 2 for SAT on November 3

Register by October 30 for SAT on December 1

Register by November 2 for ACT on December 8

PSAT (especially for Juniors) will be held at Carlmont on Saturday, October 20

All Parents: Are You Registered with eScrip?

All of our Parent Support Groups benefit when parents register with eScrip at www.eScrip.com. When we shop with registered credit or debit or grocery loyalty cards at participating eScrip merchants (like Safeway, Lunardi's, Foodville, Macy's, and others), the stores donate a small percentage of each purchase amount to our groups, at no charge to the buyer. This could add up to \$100 a year based on groceries for a family of four. Specify up to 3 schools or groups to benefit. All Carlmont PSGs have accounts, as well as the Carlmont Academic Foundation.

If you are already registered, this is the time of year to update your info – make sure your cards are current. Update by the end of October, please, at www.eScrip.com.

PSG 2008 – Parents of Seniors

Parents, please join us for our **first PSG 2008 meeting** of the year on **Tuesday, September 18, 2007** at 7:00 p.m. in **Room A-16**. (Please note that the date was incorrectly listed in the summer flyer that went home as September 17th.) Planning for Grad Night is well underway and we need all committee chairs and co-chairs along with anyone else who would like to help out to attend. We still have **openings** for parents to coordinate the following positions: Breakfast, Check-In (at Carlmont), Decorations (at venue), Insurance, Photo Booth (at venue), Secretary, Security/Chaperones, Transportation and Video. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to help out, please contact Nina or Melissa.

STAY INFORMED on all PSG 2008 activities by getting on the PSG 2008 group **email list** for parents. Go the Carlmont web site at www.carlmont.seq.org, click on "PTSA & PSGs", then on "2008", and on the top of the "PSG 2008 News Page," select "click here if you want to subscribe to our e-mail list."

Our next **FUNDRAISER** for Grad Night will be a **garage sale** held on **Saturday, September 15**, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at 1223 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Carlos. Drop off your gently used items for our garage sale on either Sunday, Sept 9th at Susan Rose's home at 411 Hillcrest Rd. in San Carlos from 4:00 – 7:00 pm, or on Wednesday, Sept. 11th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at Nina M. Rasor's home at 971 Sunset Dr. in San Carlos, or on Friday, Sept 14th from 5:00 - 9:00 pm at Pam Treadwell's house at 1223 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Carlos. Please bring your items priced. If you can help sort and organize items on Friday night (Sept 14th), or help sell items on Saturday (Sept 15th), please contact Susan Rose at 598-0296 or email at susanrosemail@yahoo.com.

The **Flamingos** Are Back! Contact Angel Hession (our head flocker) to surprise someone special with our Pink Flying Flock of Flamingos. You can reach Angel at garysangels@sbcglobal.net. Just \$25.00 per flock and the recipient gets a keepsake flamingo!

Check the PSG 2008 page of the Carlmont web site for future dates of our monthly **Dine-Outs** starting in October.

We look forward to seeing you!! Your Grad Night 2008 Co-Chairs
Nina M. Rasor, nmrasor@covad.net or 508-1713, Melissa Leviant, melcurtl@aol.com or 368-4849

PSG 2009 – Parents of Juniors

Now is the time to update your eScrip info! Go online to www.escrip.com and follow the prompts. Our Carlmont High School PSG 2009 ID # is 500001928. Not sure if you are registered with eScrip? Contact Karen Skurnac at 598-9359 or kskurnac@comcast.net. Imagine if every parent registered their grocery, Macy's, credit or debit cards with eScrip – then we would never need fundraisers!

Are you on the PSG 2009 email list? You can sign up on the Carlmont Website under the "Mailing Lists" tab.

Let us know your great ideas.

Michele Elkins, mmelkins1@aol.com and Leslie Bloom, lesliebloom1@comcast.net

PSG 2010 – Parents of Sophomores

Our first fundraiser will be on September 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union on campus. We are having our second annual Mexican Fiesta! Bring your family and friends and join your classmates for dinner. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be reserved from Carolyn Navarro at 598-2803 or Carolynnavarro@hotmail.com. Please make your reservations by September 11, 2007.

Many of your sophomores will be learning to drive and getting drivers licenses this year. A local driving school has generously offered to donate back to the class of 2010 a portion of all monies it makes from Carlmont students. Call Carolyn Navarro for details.

We are looking for some parents to help organize some fundraising activities and e-scrip. If you are interested, please email Carolynnavarro@hotmail.com. Be sure to watch the mail for a packet full of information about the year, schedule of meetings, upcoming Dine-Out Fundraiser dinners, Non-a-thon, Scrip and much much more. Remember, all the money we raise goes towards a fabulous Grad Night!

Have a fun year and enjoy. Carolyn Navarro & Gail Howard, PSG2010 Co-Chairs

PSG 2011 – Parents of Freshmen

A Parent Support Group (PSG) is a group of parent volunteers from each class that provide support to the parent community as well as the Carlmont staff. We hope to provide practical information, networking and opportunities to socialize as a class. Here are a few ways freshman parents can quickly get connected at Carlmont:

Plan to attend our first meeting--Tuesday, September 11 at 6pm in the staff lounge. Robert Fishtrom (9th grade AVP) will provide an overview of what freshman parents and students need to know!

Renew or sign up for Escrip, our main fundraiser. Email lorene_lederer@jps.net.

Stay in touch with PSG 2011 and learn about upcoming freshman class events by signing up on our "PSG 2011 list-serve". Sign up through the Carlmont web site or email venetiayoung@yahoo.com with questions. Note that this is a limited information communication tool for our class, and will not allow responses to the entire list.

Additional questions? Contact your PSG Co-Chairs:

Sue Denney, denneysue@comcast.net and Leslie Jacobs, lesliej1@comcast.net

Parent Volunteers

If you volunteer on campus, you must have a current volunteer application on file with Sharon Bologna in the office. This includes the application form, a copy of your driver's license and social security card, a current negative TB test, and emergency contact form. When you arrive, please come to the office to sign in and get a volunteer pass. Remember that volunteer parking is by the softball field. All numbered spaces are for teachers.

Student Directory

Any new student who wishes to be listed in the directory must fill out a PTSA form (available from Melanie Fuentes in the office) and return it to the office by September 30.

Join PTSA

Parents, teachers, and students - If you would like to join the Parent Teacher Student Association, please send a check made out to Carlmont PTSA for \$6 per member to Carlmont PTSA, 1400 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont CA 94002. Include your name(s), address, phone, email, and student's ID number. PTSA encourages senior students to join so that they may apply for a chance at a PTSA scholarship in the spring. If you aren't a member, you can't apply...

This is National **Preparedness** Month – are you prepared for a fire or an earthquake? **Get a Kit** (first aid, food, water, light, shelter, radio). **Make a Plan** (Where will you meet? Where will you leave messages for each other?). **Be Informed** (find out about school and community emergency plans). **Get Involved** (take community disaster response training)

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Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Prepaid
Permit No. 34
Belmont, CA 94002

Sept 2007
Volume LIII, No. 1
PTSA Publication

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