



PTSA NEWS

Important Dates

July 28

Fall sports athletic forms due

August 1

Last day of Summer School

August 19-21

Registration

Download forms from MCHS website.

Refer to attached calendar for times.

Yearbook photos will be taken at registration.

August 22

Orientation for Freshmen & new students

8am – Noon Waller Stadium

August 25

Make-up Registration

A – Z see attached calendar for times.

August 26

PTSA Back-to-School Luncheon

August 27

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Schedule Pick-up (6:45 – 7:50am)

Make-up registration (all grades) 7am-8am

Auditorium

September 1

NO SCHOOL – Labor Day Holiday

September 4

12th Grade Parent Meeting 7pm Auditorium

September 8

PTSA Meeting – 7pm Guidance Office Conf Rm

September 9

9th Grade Parent Meeting 7pm Auditorium

September 16

10th & 11th Grade Parent Meeting 7pm

Auditorium

September 17

Late Start

September 18

Minimum Day: School ends 12:21pm

Back-to-School Night:

- Meet Principal Ruisinger 6:30pm

- Pick-up PTSA Student Directories 6:30pm

- Visit Classrooms 6:45-8:30pm

September 22-26

PLAN/PSAT sign-ups @ Lunch Student Store

September 30

NO SCHOOL – Local Holiday

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Students:

What a great year we've had! I hope you are all enjoying the summer break. Students worked hard, teachers excelled in taking our students to the highest levels, and as always, parents supported the school in helping us to educate their students. What a wonderful learning community we have. I just know that I am the luckiest principal anywhere; I receive so much support from all of you without even having to ask. Trust me; it's not like this everywhere. I'm very proud and grateful to be a part of both Mira Costa and this terrific community.

We ended the year with a bang! Our "Every 15 Minutes" program was very meaningful and I believe we really touched our students with the message that drinking and driving can be lethal. Having the opportunity to experience a fatal automobile accident without actually experiencing it, is the best way I can think of to impact our students' thinking. To feel the pain of an individual who lost three family members because of a drunk driver really makes one stop and think, "Is that something I want to be responsible for?". I would like to express my thanks to Officer Steve Kitsios, the Manhattan Beach Police Department, the Manhattan Beach Fire Department, Dr. Rocky Wilson, and his PACE students, who worked so hard and so successfully to bring the program to life. I hope our students made the commitment to refrain from drinking and driving for the rest of their lives.

Graduation, Prom, and Grad Night were also incredibly successful events. Prom was held at the Long Beach Aquarium, which was a lovely venue. We got to visit the fish when we weren't dancing, eating, or playing at the game tables. Of course, it's always wonderful to see the students in their Sunday best, even though we weren't able to recognize many of them. Just kidding! They probably couldn't recognize us either. We always hold our collective breath at the end of the school year, because of all the excitement and accumulated stress that the seniors feel. However, at the end of the day, all were safe and sound. We will miss the graduating class of 2008, and wish them the very best in their future endeavors. What a great group of students!

Summer school is off to a great start. We have students trying to get ahead in their coursework, some who are making up classes to improve grades, and still others who need one or two classes in order to graduate. As you may know, the Manhattan Beach Athletic Foundation developed and runs our program. I would like to thank Gary Wayland and the staff at Wayland and Vukadinovich for all their hard work in making our summer school program a great success.

As you may know, we will be working hard on our school accreditation process this year. This study is very important because the final product will, in part, determine our direction for the next six years. During this process, students, staff, parents, faculty, administrators, and community members evaluate the many facets of the school and develop critical academic needs based upon a study of all available data. While Mira Costa is a very high achieving high school, we must always look for ways to improve and ensure that every single student is receiving the help and support needed to be successful.

(continued on page 3)



MCHS Student Registration Goes Green

We are doing our part to go green with registration. Thanks to the MCHS PTSA, Costa parents will no longer have to write out lengthy registration packets! All of the forms normally filled out by hand have been converted to a streamlined, online format. Parents will be able to submit the information needed by MCHS online.

Items such as a medical form that must be signed by a physician can be completed online but must be printed for the physician's signature. Information that is often duplicated on forms, such as student and parent name, will be filled in once and auto-populated on subsequent forms. The time it will take parents to complete the registration packet will be dramatically reduced.

The district has contracted with a company called Infosnap to manage this online registration system. Infosnap will work with the district to upload all of the registration information to the MCHS student information database. The result — convenience for parents, almost no paper used, and an accurate student information database that can be quickly updated.

MCHS parents will receive a letter this summer that explains the process and provides a unique, safe "snapcode" log-in that will allow parents access to a secure website where registration information is entered.

All PTSAs and PTAs across the district are supporting online registration through Infosnap. Whether you have children at MCHS, MBMS or an MBUSD elementary school you will have access to this easy-to-use online registration tool.

Parents who do not have Internet access are welcome to use a computer at MCHS to complete the process.



Tips for a Smooth Registration

- ❶ In August, registration forms for new and returning students will be available online.
www.mchs.manhattan.k12.ca.us.
Click on the Registration link in the table of contents.
- ❷ Carefully read the instructions before linking to **Infosnap**.
- ❸ To avoid delays, please make every effort to send your student on his/her assigned registration date and time.
- ❹ Students are required to take their I.D. photos as part of registration. Therefore, parents cannot register for their students nor can students register for other students.
- ❺ Any outstanding textbook and library charges must be cleared the week of registration (August 19-21) before the student can attend registration.

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

All Students Must Register in August.

During their assigned registration time, students report to the auditorium to turn in their registration verification form and take I.D. and yearbook photos.

Registration for All Grades:

August 19	A - Gag
August 20	Gai - Ok
August 21	OI - Z

Orientation for New Students & 9th Grade:

August 22	8:00 a.m. – noon at Waller Stadium
-----------	------------------------------------

Make-up Registration All Grades:

August 25	A – Z	12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
August 27	A – Z	7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Students competing in the Fall sports

Completed Athletic Clearance Forms including the required physical form completed & signed by your student's doctor must be submitted to the school office by July 28th. The forms are available on our web page.

The "Summer Special"

Information and the form are available on our web page. The "Summer Special" offers a price break on the yearbook, ASB activity marker and daily planner if purchased as a package by August 13th. A separate brochure regarding yearbook pictures will be mailed to you by Lifetouch during the summer.

Be sure to check the web site during the summer for updates: www.mchs.manhattan.k12.ca.us



PTSA Students of the Month

The PTSA recognizes student who have made an impression on their teachers in

some way. Some of the qualities we reward are:

- Success through hard work and dedication
- Perseverance by overcoming an obstacle or hardship to achieve success
- Positive influence on their class, club or organization
- Special or significant contribution to their class, club or organization

PTSA students of the month for March, April & May 2008:

Student

Nominating Teacher

March

Colin Krasnoff	Paula Bozeman
Sidney Lacey	Ann Brown
Amir Roodsari	Charlotte Shales-Clark
Tracey Allen	Tom Cox
Alexandra Holz	Allen Hillger
Matthew Gafney	Anita Rossell
Alex Padilla	Zamira Skalkottas
Kristian Keith	Diana Sieker
Kelly Barker	Melanie Abnoosian
Cynthia Juarez	Shannon Vaughan
CoryAnn Pitts	Chris Schwabe

April

Rebecca Heeley	Jonathan Westerberg
Kirsten Ellis	Kelli Cordray
Joseph Newell	Jennifer Woodie
Katie Hopp	Tom Schuster
Lisa Draper	Chris Schwabe
Aubrey Adaza	Cindy Gardner
Melissa Wah	Charlotte Shales-Clark
James Wharton	Tiffany Clark
Emily Luciano	Tom Cox
Brandan Ortega	Sandra Martinez-Sellan

May

Rebecca Curry	Kelli Cordray
Madison Scar	Rocky Wilson
Janet Oshiro	Chris Schwabe
Ashley Smith	Cindy Gardner
Morgan Reece	Tom Cox
Kimi Karatsu	Carolyn Hylander
Emilee Graverson	Andy Caine
Katherine Thompson	Yvonne Johnson
Alex Butchart	Paula Bozeman
Riley Wolfe	Peggy Zask
Brian Chen	Dan Sponaugle
Julien Nguyen	Harold Collier

Principal's Message (continued)

I want to let you know about the classes El Camino College will be offering on our campus after school next year. Taking college courses during high school is quite beneficial in several ways. First, students have the opportunity to experience a college level course; they receive college credit for the course, which helps to defray the cost of college when they go; and finally, having this experience helps to bolster opportunities for college admission.

Below is a listing of the courses that will be available.

Manufacturing Technology (Robotics)
Sept 11th - Dec 12th MW 3:15-6:45

Art 10ab-Drawing Fundamentals
Aug 27th - Dec 10th MW 3:15-6:25

Beginning American Sign Language
Aug 27th - Dec 12th TTh 3:15-5:45

Please feel free to contact me at 318-7337 x 5000 for further information. I can also help your student register for a class, if he or she is interested.

Many more of our teachers will be using Gradebook Wizard this year. This program allows parents and students to access grades online as teachers record them. I know that any kind of additional communication regarding academic progress is helpful. About half of the faculty used the program this year, and I received many positive comments about the value of it from both parents and teachers. Teachers noted that they received more work from students, when they used Gradebook Wizard. This must mean that parents are using motivational tools at home (cattle prod?), when they see declining achievement. Good job!

We are very pleased to offer online registration this year through Infosnap, our third-party partner. Look for detailed information in the newsletter or on the PTSA website. Please remember to check the website regularly throughout the summer for important information.

I wish you the very best summer. Take some time to do the things you love with the people you love. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

My Best Regards,
Julie Ruisinger



Summer Reading

A complete list of **required** summer reading books can be found on the Mira Costa website.
www.manhattan.k12.ca.us



Click on the "Reading Lists" link in the "Quick Links" section on upper left of the web page. Some of the lists have been updated.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER . . .

As the new school year approaches, I look forward to working with each of the members that make up the PTSA – Parents, Teachers and Students.

Last year, you generously supported:

- ➔ Existing PTSA programs (like In-N-Out Honor Roll Lunch, Student Service Scholarships, Freshmen Portfolios, Students of the Month and the PTSA Student Directory to name a few)
- ➔ \$108,000 for classroom equipment, supplies and curriculum enhancements through the PTSA Wish List program
- ➔ \$100,000 for technology enhancements
- ➔ \$32,000 for campus security upgrades

This year, we hope to:

- ➔ Continue our support of the new and existing PTSA programs
- ➔ Grant classroom and curriculum enhancements through the PTSA Wish List
- ➔ Continue to improve technology at MCHS

I encourage everyone to join and become active in the PTSA. It is only with YOUR continued support and active participation that we can meet the needs at Mira Costa and have an enjoyable and productive year.

Please join us at our first PTSA meeting on September 8th at 7 pm in the Guidance Office Conference Room.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Regards,

Cindy Ellenberg (cindye@verizon.net)



Join the
MCHS PTSA
by Sept.15
and receive a
complimentary
Student
Directory.

Additional
copies may
be purchased
for \$20.

MCHS PTSA 2008-2009 Executive Board

At the May PTSA meeting, members elected the new executive board for the 2008-2009 school year.

President	Cindy Ellenberg
1st VP Programs	Jan Rosenfeld Ariel Rosenfeld
2nd VP Ways & Means	Tami Brothers
3rd VP Membership	Denise Norden Jean Van Zanten
4th VP Volunteers	Abby Waddell
5th VP Technology	Dayle Eisenhauer
6th VP Publicity	open
7th VP Newsletter	Darren Sapanek
8th VP Booster Club Liaison	Leslie Whinfrey
9th VP Legislation	Erika White
Treasurer	Janet Wisialowski
Financial Secretary	Linda Cleland
Recording Secretary	Heather Hoffman Kathy Thorpe
Corresponding Secretary	Debbie Horn
Parliamentarian	appointed
Auditor	Jody Scott

The VP of Publicity position is still open.
If you are interested in volunteering please contact
Cindy Ellenberg (cindye@verizon.net).

MUSTANG NEWS ROUNDUP Stay informed with the Mustang News Roundup weekly email.

Are you receiving the Mustang News Roundup every Friday?

If not, check your spam / junk email folder and ask your host to unblock the mc-info@manhattan.k12.ca.us emails.

If you need to add your email address to the distribution list or your email address has changed, please email mc-info@manhattan.k12.ca.us and include your student's name and grade.



IN-N-OUT HONOR ROLL LUNCH

Fall will soon be in the air along with the wonderful smell of delicious In-N-Out burgers during the Honor Roll Lunch scheduled for Tuesday, October 21.

Incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors who earned a weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher at Mira Costa during the second semester of the 2007-08 school year will be treated to a free lunch courtesy of the Mira Costa PTSA. (Freshmen will be eligible for the spring In-N-Out Honor Roll Lunch.)

A complete listing of honor roll students is included in this PTSA newsletter and is available online at the PTSA website. All students will need to bring their student I.D.s to the auditorium during lunch on October 21 to participate. A complimentary lunch will also be served to the Mira Costa teachers and staff members.

To help get the students "in-n-out" on time, the PTSA needs parent volunteers to help from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call Kathy Thorpe at 310/374-5344 or e-mail her at konakkt@aol.com if you are available to help and have a burger.



Target Supports Education

Do you have a Target REDcard?

Target donates 1% of all REDcard purchases at Target and Target.com to the school of your choice.

Sign-up today. It's easy and benefits our schools.

Visit www.target.com for more information.
Mira Costa's school ID # is 29275.

Thank you!

The education benefit is available with the Target Visa credit card, Target Credit Card and Target Check Card.



\$ So Many Ways to Save with \$ \$ the MCHS Cash Card \$

\$15 buys you one MCHS Cash Card, providing **discounts at some of your favorite local merchants for an entire year.**

Every student should have 1 - every household should have 2 or 3!

Save at Manhattan Car Wash, Subway, Amigos Tacos, Fatburger, Spyder, Surf Concepts, and more — every time you go! Just show your MCHS Cash Card at time of purchase and enjoy your discounts.

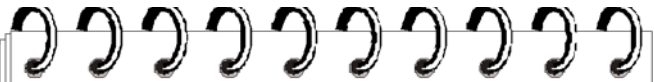
A final list of participating businesses will be determined by 8/1/08. New cards will be available September 1st and will be good until October 1, 2009.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ONE.

Pre-order your new card for the coming school year. Send your self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to MCHS PTSA for \$15 per card to:

Janine Bozeman
1207 19th Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
Call with questions: (310) 376-6554
or email J9Bozeman@aol.com

Thanks for your support of MCHS

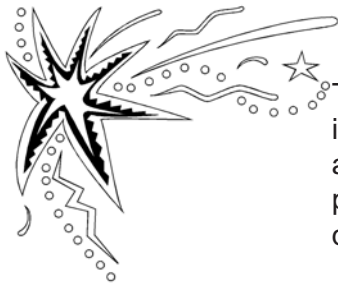


Office Depot 5% Back to School Rewards

Last school year, Mira Costa received over \$1,600 in free school supplies as a result of your purchases at Office Depot.

By giving our school name at the check-out register, 5% of your purchases come back to us. Please tell the cashier that you would like to credit your purchases to Mira Costa or give them our program **ID# 70010618** and keep those rewards coming.

Thank you for support of this program!



2008 PTSA Service Recognition Scholarships

The 2008 PTSA Service Recognition Scholarships were awarded to the following 33 seniors. Each is being recognized for their outstanding achievements in academics and their service to both Mira Costa and the community. We are pleased to award a PTSA scholarship in the amount of \$500 to each of these deserving students:

Raegan Allsbrook
Jessica Altshuler
Kelsey Anderson
Allison Baeuchler
Erin Burns
Todd Burns
Matthew Burton
Nolan Caine
Katie Chen
Patrick Chisum
Jonah Chodosh

Nina May
Matthew Mayeda
Steven Mochalski
Seethal Motamarri
Julia O'Brien
Andrew Real
Emily Rosen
Kelly Shambaugh
Cody Strange
Erika Troll
Jeffrey Wayland

Nina Chung
Matthew Creem
Jason Ellenberg
Katherine Fukunaga
Emily Gee
Chase Gregory
Erin Harless
Evan Jones
Kyle Kwon
Gabrielle LeBlanc
Jarett Margolis

Thank you to the PTSA
Scholarship selection committee for
their many hours of work:
Heather Hoffman
Jean Van Zanten
Erika White



Senior Breakfast

Thank you to Denise Anderson for her support in advance of the event and to Carl Leach and the entire maintenance staff for their support

the day of our Senior Breakfast. We are not quite sure how we will do it next year without the two of them, and wish them both all the best in their new endeavors.

Thank you my helpers on event day: Debbie Conover, Kim Nitta, Ruby Peabody, Gary Shambaugh, Linda Straley, Candee Wilson and Scott Yanofsky.

Thank you to the following families for their generous donations of food and drink (our apologies if we accidentally overlooked anyone): Adler, Albert, Allen, Beals, Boone, Bueltel, Bunnell, Burke, Burton, Chapman, Conover, Devine, Dexter, Edmonds, Farias, Ford, Gilman, Graner, Harless, Hellmers, Johnson, Jones, Kuckowicz, Levitt, Limback, Lind, Markis, Moore, Nitta, O'Brien, Olsen, Peabody, Peha, Pitts, Reiss, Rice, Rowe, Shambaugh, Stachowitz, Sullivan-Moses, Terry, Thomas, Trachy, Van Orden, Lasaro, Westcott, Wheatcroft, Wickramarachchi, Woloz, Wong, Yarbrough.

This was a fabulous event thanks to all of you!

Denise Lavell

2008 Senior Breakfast Chairperson

Intouch Reminder

Please remember that **Intouch** is the primary communications tool that parents use to access their student's attendance, class schedule, course history, progress reports and grades.

Keep your confidential login and password in a secure location over summer break; you will use this information during your student's tenure at Mira Costa.

PTSA June Newsletter

Thank you to the capable and energetic crowd who gathered to help Lori Burns, Kathy Nakaoka and Sarah Olsen get the June newsletter in the mail to our Costa families.

Also helping were: Leslie Afzali, Leslie Askanas, Janet Chapman, Cynthia Copeland, Julie Davidge, Maggie Dexter, Kathy Duffy, Cindy Ellenberg, Mary Anne Fontana, Judy Goldman, Linda Harper, Zvia Hempling, Karen Hirsch, Karen Kane, Ellen Kubo, Janet Murillo, Denise Norden, Dana Nutten, Deborah Porter, Marlene Rich, Ruth Siltanen, Marcia Soto, Kyung Stanfill, April Wayland and Maria Wohlmuth.

