

MAYBECK HIGH SCHOOL

January Newsletter

Congratulations to the students, actors, technicians, and musicians who did fantastic jobs developing the Maybeck Fall Play and Moments Musicaux. They were events very much appreciated by all who attended. Excellent work!

Thanks to all students and parents who participated in, helped with, and attended the play and music performances. The students, Eric, and all the staff deeply appreciate the incredible show of support. Your enthusiasm and engagement really make a difference and help to inspire the students who put so much into their performances.

The next MPA meeting is on Tuesday, January 13, at 7 PM at the home of Colleen Neff and Helmut Kapczynski, 1035 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley. There is no need to RSVP. Please contact the school with any questions. The MPA meetings give parents a chance to talk with other parents, the Head Teacher, and another visiting staff member. The agenda includes planning upcoming events.

Final Exams begin on Friday, January 16, resume the following Tuesday, and last through Friday, January 23. Please give your students extra support during this potentially stressful time, and keep a watchful eye out to make sure they are eating well and getting enough rest.

There will be no classes on Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Semester Break: A one-week hiatus, January 24 through February 1, follows final exams. This break gives students the opportunity to rest up and start the spring term fresh and feisty.

Share Maybeck! Our next Open House for prospective families is on Saturday, January 24, from 10 AM to noon in the chapel. If you know families in the process of selecting a high school and you think Maybeck might be a good match, encourage them to check us out by attending our Open House. Also, if you are interested in sharing your experiences so prospective families can hear from fellow parents, please contact Trevor Cralle at school, 841-8489, ext. 203, or at trevor@maybeckhs.org. Every year it is important that we carefully inform prospective families about Maybeck, helping to maintain our

enrollment as well as the energy, diversity, and life of our community.

The Lenaea Festival is a statewide drama competition and festival that will take place at Sacramento State January 30 through February 1. Eric De Lora and a group of students will be representing Maybeck, and are sure to get more attention than usually befits such a tiny school. Break legs (only one each), Maybeckians!

Class Schedules for the Spring Semester will either be mailed out over the semester break or given to students upon their return to school on February 2.

Parent-Staff Potluck and Silent Auction: Our annual socializing and fundraising event for parents and staff is coming up on the evening of Saturday, February 21. Lauren McIntosh Walrod and Stephen Walrod have once again offered to host at their lovely home in Berkeley. If you have goods or services you would like to auction to support Maybeck, please contact parent auction coordinator Sue Miller at smiller@library.berkeley.edu. This event is a lot of fun, with many great auction items, and we encourage everyone to attend.

2008-2009 Annual Giving Campaign: Even in these difficult times, Maybeck families and friends have opened up their checkbooks and contributed generously to the Annual Giving Campaign. If you misplaced the return envelope and form, just send your contribution, in any amount, to the office with "annual giving" in the memo section. A powerful way to make a significant contribution is to send a note to the office authorizing the increase of your monthly bill by a few dollars for several months. A twenty-dollar allocation for five months makes a 100-dollar contribution relatively painless. Regardless of the amount of your gift, it is important that all members of our community contribute. Coming close to a 100% rate of participation of current families helps us raise additional funds, since funding agencies always ask about this when we apply for their support. This year, the goal is to raise \$60,000 to outfit our new building! Generous donations are rolling in, confirming that our community is thriving and committed to the education of your youngsters.

Onward to the New Facility: Every week we get closer. At this point, we have an executed lease with St. John's Presbyterian Church, we have obtained the City of Berkeley Use Permit, and we have applied for the building permit. Construction should begin soon, and we still plan to enjoy the new space before the school year is out. Thank you to the many volunteers for all your very much-appreciated hard work thus far, and for volunteering to help us with the move.



Maybeck tuition for 2009-2010 has been set by the Staff and Board. Although we are moving to a more appropriate, larger and very engaging space, the increase in tuition for next year will be 6%, in line with previous cost of living increases. This modest increase, to \$20,200 plus \$900 in fees, fulfills the staff's commitment to move to the new space, make lease payments, and continue providing the most effective education possible without a major tuition hike. We keep tuition as low as possible without sacrificing quality. There are several reasons why Maybeck continues to be the value leader in Bay Area college prep high schools, including careful financial policies, investing mainly in services for our students, family participation in the annual giving campaign and other fundraising events, and keeping expenses in line. Thank you for your efforts.

Financial aid packets will be mailed out by mid-January. If you do not receive one by January 15 and wish to apply, please call and let us know.

Staff evaluations take place early in 2009. If you want to add your thoughts about the school or individual staff members, please send them to Attn: Evaluation Committee, Maybeck High School, 2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 94704.

Thoughts from John on Preparing for Final Exams:

There are several ways to really screw up final exams. Here are a few of the more common ways people have made final exams difficult when they could have been reasonable:

1. Ignore the teacher's suggestions about what to study in preparation for the test.
2. Put off reviewing until the last couple of days before the test.
3. Avoid going to teacher office hours.
4. Stay up late studying on the last night instead of getting good sleep.
5. Get caught up in other peoples' schedules instead of taking appropriate breaks and following a plan that fits your needs.
6. When something is not obvious, get scared that you cannot do it and run from the task. Avoid thinking about it or calling a friend to really try and solve the problem.
7. Avoid taking the time to compare notes with someone who is excellent at note taking.
8. Only do the minimum. Those other problems at the end of the chapter are for others; don't try to solve them.
9. Spend time blaming other students, parents, or teachers who are probably somewhat responsible. Get involved in a good drama and avoid doing the learning.

Guess what: When you avoid learning, you are not ready, and it *is* much more difficult to grasp the material and do well on your exams. Instead of engaging in the above forms of sabotage, just focus on careful review, getting help from teachers and colleagues, mastering the skills, and going into each exam brilliantly prepared.

We are here to facilitate your learning. Let us help. Come to office hours, schedule an appointment, catch us after class, or send an e-mail. Remember, if something does not make sense or you are having trouble getting a paper done, we will ultimately find out, either at test-time or on the due date, so you might as well tell us in advance when we can be of some assistance.

Special Programs will be here sooner than you think! Students should be attending meetings (which are mandatory) if scheduled for their respective programs. Forms to request program reassignment are available in the office and should be completed ASAP if a student wishes to switch programs.