

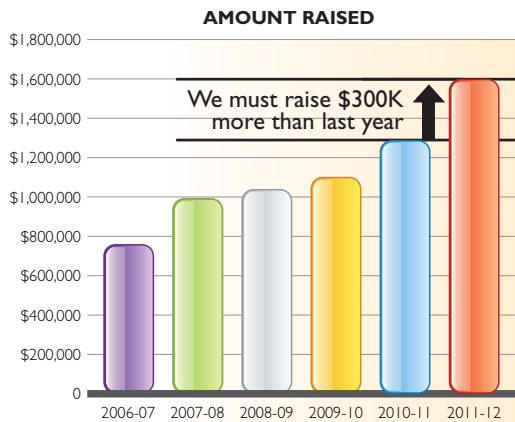
FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Supporting Excellence in Education

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Newsletter 2011

“GREAT DAYS @ M-A” IN 2011-12 THANKS TO FOUNDATION’S \$1.6M COMMITMENT!



- Foundation continues to grow
- Record commitment of \$1.6 million for 2011-2012
- Increased grant necessary to continue core initiatives
 - Smaller class sizes
 - Expanded course offerings
 - Professional development for our teachers
 - College and career prep
 - Essential programs & services

The Foundation has committed \$1.6 M for 2011–12 school year—a 23% increase over 2010-11 fundraising.



Professional Development Program Wins Apple Award

THIS YEAR, THE FOUNDATION HAS TAKEN ON A NEW CHALLENGE: WE HAVE COMMITTED TO GRANTING \$1.6 MILLION TO MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL.

As we begin our 2011-2012 school year, our Foundation is gearing up to support an enriched educational experience for every student at Menlo-Atherton High School. The Foundation has been supporting our school since 1992, and has grown significantly in concert with our dynamic M-A community. As a result, our school has been transformed by smaller class sizes, expanded course offerings, professional development for our teachers and excellent college and career preparation. This year, the Foundation has taken on a new challenge: We have committed to granting \$1.6 million to Menlo-Atherton High School. By increasing our grant, we will be able

to do what is necessary to assure that our California Distinguished School remains a top high school in the state.

Often when a fundraising goal is increased, savvy donors ask: “What will the “extra funds” pay for?” The answer: these dollars are essential to the financial health of our school. With the constant threat of state budget cuts and various increased demands, the Foundation is a stable source of funding which allows M-A to provide our students with the best opportunities and carry out the strategic plans of our top-flight educators.

Some recent Foundation initiatives and achievements include: Last year, 45% of Foundation funds paid for 31 additional class sections, effectively reducing class size in 152 core subject and foreign language classes. The Foundation made seven important electives possible, including AP Physics, AP Latin, Drama and Journalism. The Foundation’s professional development program recently won a prestigious Apple Award from the California Consortium of Education Foundations and a J. Russell Kent Award for innovative programs. Our students benefit immeasurably from our investment in teaching excellence. This year, the Foundation will be funding state-of-the-art equipment for M-A’s new media arts building. Our commitment of \$1.6 million demonstrates a simple truth: our students deserve the support of an active community that will step-up and continue to participate in making their M-A experience great.



AP Physics Cardboard Boat Race Winning Team



Groundbreaking Ceremony for M-A Media Arts Building

IT’S A GREAT DAY @ **M-A!**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



M-A Principal, Matthew Zito congratulates Class of 2011 during June commencement.

Graduations are always meaningful to me, and ushering our wonderful Class of 2011 out into their future was no exception. We have so much to be proud of in our Menlo-Atherton community, as we continue to serve a growing and diverse population and provide opportunities for all of our students. We should be incredibly gratified that 97% of the Class of 2011 will be continuing their educations after their time at M-A.

After catching my breath, I turn my attention to welcoming and integrating a new class of freshmen into the dynamic M-A world. The

Class of 2015 will be joining a community that is prepared to greet them with open arms and programs tailored to their needs and interests. Our Foundation generously sponsors a Freshman Parent Coffee on the morning of Freshman Orientation, Tuesday, August 23, 8AM, outside the Staff Lounge at the front of school. It is a great opportunity to hear about the many moving pieces at M-A, and learn about the integral role of the Foundation for the Future in making M-A a great experience for our students. It is also an invitation to Class of 2015 families to begin supporting the Foundation with increased impact through the Foundation's Freshman Family Challenge this fall.

Menlo-Atherton relies upon the consistent support of our M-A families and community members—our first-time donors and veteran supporters of the Foundation for the Future. The fiscal vagaries in Sacramento have continued unabated, making the State an unreliable partner in our efforts to provide our students with the programs and opportu-

nities they deserve. The steady support of the Foundation for the Future has been a crucial stabilizing force. In fact, the Foundation has consistently increased its grant to our school, and is on track to do so this academic year as well. For 2010-2011, the Foundation grant was a record-breaking \$1.3 million and the goal for this academic year is an inspiring \$1.6 million.

We simply cannot do without this support from our Foundation. It allows us to continue critical programs that would otherwise be sacrificed and gives us the flexibility to react to needs as they arise. Now providing over 9% of our overall budget, the Foundation for the Future is more critical to our success than ever. As we begin another year together, I want to thank the Foundation for the Future for their significant partnership in making M-A great for all of our students.

“M-A ON eBAY” SETS NEW RECORD!

When the gavel fell to close the Foundation's fourth annual online auction in May, lucky bidders had won fantastic items, including vacation homes, parties, concert tickets, and more. But the big winner was M-A. Exceeding expectations, the auction raised over \$113,000! Proceeds from the auction, like all donations to the Foundation, go directly to support educational programs at M-A. Don't miss out on your next chance to win a trip or dinner with Mr. Zito.

Watch for M-A on eBay in the Spring!

THE STUDENTS OF M-A NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

PLEASE JOIN THE HUNDREDS OF M-A ALUMNI, COMMUNITY FAMILIES, AND BUSINESSES THAT ARE SUPPORTING OUR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Visit www.mafoundation.org to make a secure donation by PayPal or credit card, or send a check payable to M-A Foundation for the Future, P.O. Box 1228, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

Your gift to the Foundation is tax-deductible.

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The Foundation for the Future at Menlo-Atherton High School thanks our talented photographers: M-A teacher, Betsy Snow, and Foundation board member, Bruce Deal.

Design by AplinUnoCreative.

FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING TEACHERS & STAFF

Every year for the last seventeen years, the Foundation has recognized teaching excellence with Teaching Awards. In 1998 we instituted a Leadership Award and in 2003 an award for Classified Staff was introduced. Recipients are nominated by colleagues and reviewed by a committee of administrators, certificated and classified staff and the Foundation. Each month teachers and staff who have a measurable positive impact on campus are recognized with Impact Awards. All new teachers receive a Foundation grant to defray classroom start-up costs.

TEACHING AWARDS

Betsy Snow is integral to the M-A community. She has taught English for the last 6 years and has strived to make her materials accessible for all students. Betsy makes other teachers better by generously sharing her rock solid curriculum and efficiently using technology to enhance teaching.

Betsy teaches creatively and enthusiastically. Whether planting the "AS gardens" or creating "the Beach" for her Below Basic sophomores, Betsy creates a universally welcoming learning environment. Betsy challenges students at all levels, from Advanced Placement to English Language Learners. Her latest innovation is *The MARK*, an adventure in journalism, art and photography that provides a forum for creative students. Betsy's originality and technological savvy make her the ideal leader for this unique publication. Betsy is smart, passionate and dedicated. M-A students are the lucky beneficiaries.

Inez Paepcke is devoted to the educational advancement of Menlo-Atherton High School. It isn't any wonder she was named

San Mateo County Teacher of the Year for 2009. She teaches students with unceasing energy and expertly educates staff members in the use of technology. Inez approaches challenges with calm demeanor and a smile while preparing her students for the real world through the 21st Century Technologies curriculum.

As a colleague noted, "Inez has been instrumental in the collective success of the Academy program. Her willingness to collaborate makes her an exceptional team member. The students recognize her commitment. Not only does she deliver relevant and engaging curriculum, but the support that she provides for students is extraordinary."

C.J. Carlson does an excellent job as Algebra team leader and has embraced leadership beyond these duties. He is one of few staff members to get teachers communicating across the curriculum and developing common intervention strategies. C.J. skillfully led a group of teachers from different departments in addressing 9th grade concerns. The new 9th Grade Elective Wheel for is just one example of C.J.'s leadership.

C.J. has spent countless hours devising strategies to improve student life at M-A. He respects his students and treats them accordingly. His low-key manner and non-confrontational style make his classroom a serious but welcoming place where real learning occurs. A colleague said, "When I think of M-A's future, I feel comfortable knowing that C.J. is here and will continue to grow and develop into the kind of leader that M-A needs."



2011 Foundation Leadership, Teaching & Classified Staff Award recipients: Front row, L to R, Alice Kleeman, Inez Paepcke. Back row, L to R, Betsy Snow, Matthew Zito, C.J. Carlson.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

When **Matthew Zito** arrived seven years ago, the M-A Campus looked and felt very different than it does today. Matthew became vice principal and immediately began cleaning house, transforming the halls and the physical plant. Matthew's years at M-A have yielded a state of the art performing arts center, a renovated Pride Hall and well-maintained offices and classrooms with more to come, as ground has recently been broken for the new media arts building.

Matthew Zito is a leader who creatively finds funding and cuts through red tape to support instruction and curricular improvements that address the needs of all students. He brings the staff together in support of common goals. As he has been known to say, "M-A is a really inclusive place. There is a place for everyone and something for everyone here." He has done so much to make it that way.

CLASSIFIED STAFF AWARD

Alice Kleeman, one of the country's premier college advisors, has been guiding bright futures at M-A for 17 years. Alice goes above and beyond. Her devoted attention to every student is what makes her irreplaceable.

Alice arrives at the crack of dawn to open up the Career Center on cold mornings, makes time at all hours on nights, weekends and holidays to help students, runs a College Club for low-income students, meets individually with AVID students, reviews recommendation letters for teachers, advocates for Special Ed students, serves on the Shared Decision Making Site Council, organizes college visits, attends countless M-A sports and community events and provides virtuosic piano accompaniment for the M-A chorus and musicals in the spare time that she unfathomably finds. Alice has been known to say "I love M-A...I could never work anywhere else!" We are beyond fortunate that she feels that way.



2010-11 Foundation Impact Award Winners: front row, l. to r., Jonathan Senigaglia, Brett Olsson, Sandy Nelson, Craig LeClaire, Alan Perry, Tara Charles, Steven Kryger. Back row, l. to r., Inez Paepcke, Jessica Huang, Johanna Carpio, Aubrey Orcutt, Alicia Gonzalez, Katie Nelson. **Not Pictured:** Cara Arcuni, Francisco Conejo, Karina Escobar-Weaver, Bobby Gibson, Robert Gomez, Sophia Kalamaras, John McBlair, Jennifer Paulsen, Lilly Quinonez, Hugo Reyes.

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL

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WHAT'S INSIDE!

- FOUNDATION COMMITS **\$1.6M** FOR 2011-12
- A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL MATTHEW ZITO
- LEADERSHIP, TEACHER & STAFF AWARDS
- M-A ON EBAY A WINNER



M-A CLASS OF 2011: DESTINATION SUCCESS

The 2011 M-A Bears are on their way, and they've already got a lot of reasons to be proud. Our Foundation shares in this pride, as we've been helping provide our wonderful students with an exceptional high school experience for 19 years. A phenomenal 97% of the M-A class of 2011 will be continuing their educations. 13% of the class, 47 students, will be going to a UC and 11%, 36 students, will be heading to a California State University. Two-year colleges will launch the futures of 137 members of the class of 2011. Over a quarter of the class, 100 students, will be attending out of state four-year colleges, including 8 graduates who will go to 5 different Ivies (Brown, Cornell, Princeton, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania). In addition, 11% will head to California private colleges, including 6 at Stanford. The adventurous class of 2011 also includes 7 students who have chosen to go abroad for a four-year college experience.