



PTA Newsette

Spring Edition

Get Involved in the Taylor PTA for Next Year!

Although there are still a couple months left to go in the school year, we have started preparations for next year. Many of our current board members will be "graduating" in June, so it is essential that current 6th and 7th grade parents get involved as much as possible. For more info and a list of Board and Committee positions see page 7.

Star Testing

It's that time of year again where teachers, students, and parents all over the State of California are anticipating standardized tests. The California Standards Testing window for grades 6th, 7th, and 8th will be April 21st to May 5th. There is a practice testing day on April 27, 2009 and the first day of testing is on April 28, 2009. Testing will be in the morning, so please make sure your child arrives to school on time.

These last-minute, test-prep tips and strategies will help your child/children do their best.

- Make certain your child gets a good night's sleep, eats a healthy breakfast and arrives to school on time the day of the test.
- Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one. Do not add to your child's stress.
- Remind your child that the test is important.
- Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.
- Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher and to read the directions and each question carefully.
- Ask your student to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blanks
- Remind your child that it is okay to mark in the test booklet as a help in taking the test, i.e., underlining important words, etc., but to mark all answers on the answer sheet.
- Explain the importance of using time wisely. If your child becomes fixated on one question, encourage your child to make the best choice or place a mark in the test booklet by that item and go back to it later.

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The Next PTA Meeting is on Thursday, April 16th

We hope that many families will join us for our next PTA meeting. The General Meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Taylor Library. The Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge. The final PTA Meeting of the year will be on May 14th. Please join us!



A letter from our Principal

Dear Students and Parents,

Spring is here. During this time of year there are many transitions and changes taking place. I am keeping a positive attitude about the challenges California and the Millbrae School District are facing, financially and I am “thinking of a place called HOPE,” as our Superintendent, Dr. Shirley Martin has said so many times. Taylor Middle School will continue to be a school where children feel safe and where learning occurs. We must not lose sight in the fact that our future depends on the quality of education our children receive. I look back at what I have learned this year as Principal and I am thankful that I have chosen to continue my educational path at Taylor Middle School.

I thank all of the efforts that the PTA Executive Board, Rudy Correa, Leticia Gonzalez and Petra Kretschmer, put forth in order to prepare for the wonderful PTA fundraising social event called “A Party for All Ages” on Saturday, February 28, 2009. This event was a huge success as a community building experience and as a fundraiser. I thank all of the School Board members, Superintendent, parents, teachers, students, and other community members for attending or making a contribution to this event. The Party had three venues on campus. The first was a “Casino Night,” for adults in the auditorium; the second was a teen social for Taylor Middle School students, held in the gym; and lastly a movie night for children in grades K-5, in the cafeteria. We were able to attract hundreds of participants. We all had a fabulous time and hope you did too. We will see you again, next year when we have our second annual event.

School Activities are always an exciting time for students and the most recent one was called “Chocopalooza.” This event was on Friday, February 6, 2009 from 3:30 until 6:00 p.m. It was coordinated by the Leadership class under the expert guidance of Freda Lin, our Leadership teacher. The event included fun activities such as, pie a pal, bob for donuts, etc... And of course, there was lots of chocolate to be consumed.

On Wednesday, March 11, 2009, a visitor came to our campus. Annually we participate in a Principal for the Day program. This year I was honored to escort Mrs. Marcia Raines, City Manager for the city of Millbrae, around campus. She met with the administration team, supervised students at recess, observed several classrooms and she was interviewed by two of our Broadcast Journalism students for our KTLR daily announcement. At noon we enjoyed a wonderful luncheon with the other Principal's for a day.

Some important upcoming events to be aware of are as follows:

- Our annual Math Fair will be on Thursday, April 2, 2009 starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Taylor auditorium.
- Our Book Fair begins on Monday, May 18, 2009 and continues and closes immediately following our back to school night.
- Open House on Thursday, May 21, 2009 starting at 6:00 p.m. for 5th Grade Orientation and at 6:45 p.m. for the general meeting in the Taylor auditorium with classroom visits starting at 7:00 and ending at 8:00 p.m.
- Spring Recess begins on Friday, April 3, 2009 starting with a 12:30 dismissal time. Students will return from Spring Break on Tuesday, April 14, 2009.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Erwin".

David Erwin



A letter from our PTA Presidents

Dear Parents,

It's incredible to think that we only have a couple months left in the school year, and we hope that your families are doing well and staying healthy! First and foremost, we would like to thank everyone who planned, supported, and attended our fundraising event – “A Party for All Ages” – on February 28, 2009. In all, there were over 400 people in attendance, and we were able to make a net profit of over \$9600! More importantly, it was wonderful to see the Taylor community gather together to enjoy food and games in support of our favorite middle school.

We'd like to thank the Executive PTA Board and the many parent volunteers for planning and running the fundraiser. Thanks to Mr. Erwin and the Taylor teachers & staff for serving as dealers, bankers, DJs, and in so many other ways so that this night could be possible. Special thanks to Rudy Correa, who volunteered his time to take care of the custodial work, and to Mr. Silva for being our esteemed Master of Ceremonies. We also want to thank our corporate sponsors for their generous donations (see p.4). Thanks to the School Board members and to the Superintendent for attending the event, as well as so many parents, students and community members.

With all the budget issues facing our schools, it is even more important that we show our support for the teachers and staff at Taylor. At the last PTA meeting on March 12th, we voted to immediately disburse an initial amount of \$15,000 from the proceeds of the “We Need You” campaign and the recent fundraiser to the principal's discretionary account. In the past, we have designated funds for the purchase of computer equipment, lunch tables, binder reminders, etc, but this year, it seemed best to allow the principal more flexibility in the use of funds in order to help make up for the shortfall of school funds.

As we near the end of the school year, we have started the process of recruiting volunteers for the Executive Board as well as other committee/chair positions. If you are interested in serving on the board for next year, please contact Janet Becker or Mr. Erwin as soon as possible. The plans for 8th Grade Commencement activities are also in progress, and we are hoping to make this a special time for all of our 8th grade students as they prepare to move on to high school. Please keep a lookout for more details to come.

Finally, please remember our next PTA meeting on April 16th at 7 p.m. in the Taylor library. Also, please note that the May PTA meeting has been changed to May 14th in order to accommodate the Open House on May 21st. We hope to see you there!

Kris Barbaro
President

Jean Joh
Executive Vice-President



The Taylor PTA's fundraiser, "A Party For All Ages" was a big success thanks to all the parents and community members who attended or made donations.

Special Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors!

**Camino Dental Care
JY Electrical Construction
Peter's Café
Positive Electric
Sixteen Mile House**

Prizes Donated By

**A Space in Place
Astaria
Bagel Street Cafe
Bel Mateo
BJ's Brewhouse
California's Great America
Chen's Cleaners
Children's Discovery Museum
Diageo-Guinness USA
Doubletree Hotel
Eggettes
Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park
Hillsdale Mall
Kimberly's Fine Foods
Leonardi's
L'Escape Spa
Lullaby Lane
Marriott SFO
O Sole Mio
Pape Meat Company
Ripley's Believe It or Not
South City Car Wash
Tech Museum of Innovation
Today's Nails**

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

Supporting Millbrae School District Music Program

Saturday April 18, 2009 from 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Millbrae Community Center 477 Lincoln Circle

THIS FUN FILLED EVENING INCLUDES:

Hot Dog Dinner with chips and a drink

Jamba Juice Sales

Bingo Prizes donated by local merchants
including

El Rancho Best Western, Safeway, 16 Mile House, Starbucks, Peter's Cafe, Office Depot,
Broadway Barber Shop, Round Table Pizza

Wii & Play Station Games plus more...

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Including Lefty's Sports Memorabilia, Themed Gift Baskets, Home Decorating & more

6:00 - 7:00 P.M. Silent Auction & Dinner

7:00 – 9:00 P.M. Bingo

9:00 – 9:30 P.M. Silent Auction Payment

Special Performances by Taylor Music Student's During Dinner

Come join the fun!



Tear off this Family Bingo Night R.S.V.P. & please return it to the Taylor Music Office with your check payable to:
Taylor Middle School or mail to Taylor Music Dept., 850 Taylor Blvd.

Student Name & School _____

Family last name _____

of guests _____

Hot Dog Dinner \$4.00 (\$5.00 at the door)

Quantity _____

Play All 8 Bingo Games \$12.00, suggested donation

Quantity _____

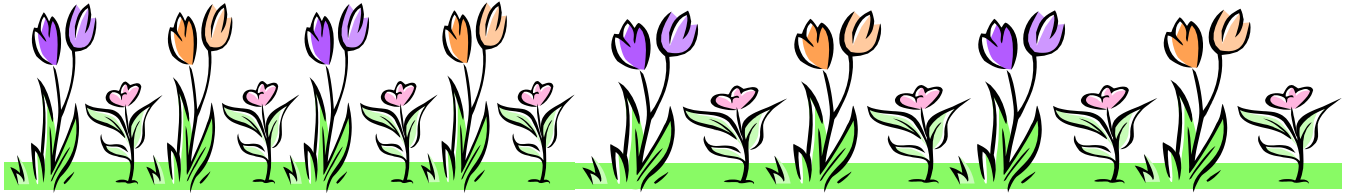
Individual Bingo Cards \$2.00, suggested donation

Quantity _____

Donations Welcome



Total \$ _____



Taylor Book Fair

May 18th - 21st (Mon-Thurs)

Taylor Library

Featuring a fresh new selection of books, cookbooks, posters, crazy pens and other cool stuff!

Hours:

May 18 (Mon) – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
May 19 (Tues) – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
May 20 (Wed) – 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
May 21 (Thurs)– 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
and 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



PLUS!!



Our very own String Quartet will be performing May 21st during Open House (6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

* Teacher's Wish List available *



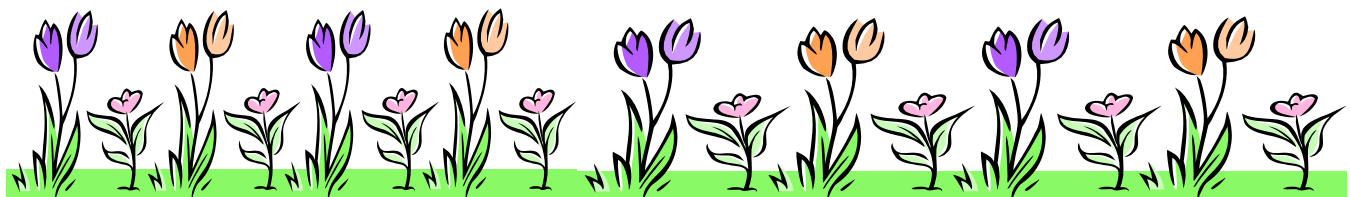
Calling all Volunteers!!

Please help out and volunteer your time to make this the most successful Book Fair ever!

There will be a \$25.00 drawing for parents who sign up to volunteer!

Please email debbie.lim@coldwellbanker.com or call 650-302-4127

Checks should be made payable to Taylor PTA. Credit cards accepted.





Help Wanted!

GET INVOLVED IN THE TAYLOR PTA 2009-2010!

Being a part of the Taylor PTA Team is a great way to help make your student's school better and a great way to give back to the community. If you would like to volunteer for any of the following positions or nominate someone else, or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Erwin at the school office, Janet Becker at janet.becker@diageo.com.

Below is a list of PTA Board and Committee positions. Some positions may have already been filled but we welcome you to let us know if you are interested in any position or committee.

PTA Board

President

Vice President

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Auditor

Parliamentarian

Historian

PTA Committee Chairs

Summer Mailing Packet

Communications Chair

8th Grade Promotion Events

Volunteer Coordinator

Dance Committee

Hospitality

Membership

Newsette Editor

Scholastic Book Fair

Music Liaison

Escrip Coordinator

Lucky SHARES Coordinator

Boxtops Coordinator

Cubby Hole

Webmaster

Chinese Language Liaison

Spanish Language Liaison



Taylor Open House

We hope all Taylor families are planning to attend our annual Open House on Thursday, May 21, 2009 starting at 6:00 p.m. for 5th Grade Orientation and at 6:45 p.m. for the general meeting in the Taylor auditorium with classroom visits starting at 7:00 and ending at 8:00 p.m.

There will be lots to do and see—and we look forward to seeing you at the school. There are many important reasons to attend open house. Here is a list of some of them.

TEN REASONS TO ATTEND OPEN HOUSE

1. Open house is a good opportunity to support your child. Almost every child will have his or her work displayed in a classroom. Go and find it with your child.
2. The many displays in the classrooms will remind you and your student of the work that has gone on since September. Visiting the classrooms will give you an opportunity to discuss classroom activities with your child.
3. Sometimes students come home with projects to do; writing, drawing, poetry, collages, science projects, etc. Sometimes, it's hard for them to get started. Other times, they aren't sure how to present their ideas. Open house is a virtual museum of projects. Pay attention to how information is presented and how projects are displayed. You and your students can take home ideas for the future by observing and discussing the projects on display at open house.
4. Open house gives you an opportunity to say hello to your child's teachers. Back-to-school night was months ago, and it's nice to get reacquainted and say thank you to our dedicated teachers.
5. You and your child can visit classrooms for the next grade level. Getting an idea of what they will be doing is interesting and informative and can reduce anxiety for your child.
6. Open house is a chance to see the work of many students. It will help you get an idea of the type of work being performed in your child's grade level.
7. Some of the classrooms, science in particular, will have participatory activities. You can have fun and reminisce about your high school science class.
8. There will be a book fair in the library. Support Taylor Middle School by making a purchase.
9. You can see friends from the community. It can be hard to keep in touch with other parents—but you might see some of your old friends at open house.
10. It's a fun night out, it's free and you can bring your kids.

Eighth Grade Matriculation Information**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS and TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS**

8th graders who are seeking letters of recommendations and transcripts to be sent to private schools are asked to follow the procedures listed below. Requests for letters of recommendation from the English teacher, math teacher, and either the principal, assistant principal or counselor, as well as requests for transcripts will be handled by our registrar Nancy Agles in the front office.

Students, DO the Following:

- Submit the request for transcripts to Ms. Agles in the office.
- Submit a self addressed, stamped envelope for each school to Ms. Agles in the office.
- Submit the English or Math teacher's letter of recommendation to the appropriate teacher with a self addressed, stamped envelope for each school.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

Mrs. Agles will photocopy all necessary documents, distribute the forms for letter of recommendations to the following: English / Math / Counselor / Principal to complete, print official transcripts, and mail everything.

The principal, assistant principal, or counselor and teachers will complete their letters of recommendations, upon request from Ms. Agles and return letters to her. Ms. Agles will make photocopies for TMS' own records. Ms. Agles will enclose them in the envelopes you've provided and will mail them directly to your schools of choice.

It is perfectly appropriate and highly recommended that you follow through with a thank you note to your registrar and teachers. Writing a thoughtful letter of recommendation is time consuming. Your teachers are willing to do all they can to help you. Your acknowledgment of their time will be much appreciated.

Proof of Residence. Information regarding enrollment procedures is available on the SMUHSD website www.smuhsd.k12.ca.us. The Governing Board has implemented a policy requiring that **all incoming ninth grade students and students new to the District must provide proof of residence in the District.**

- Upon providing proof of residency and completing the enrollment process the student will receive a **permit to register.**
- **A permit to register** is required for participation in the Intra-District transfer Program (2/2/09 through 3/2/09) and for programming (selecting classes).
- Information for on-line enrollment will be available on the SMUHSD website.



Eighth Grade Matriculation Information (*continued*)

8th Grade Promotion Events



We have started planning for the **8th Grade Promotion events** and will be sending out requests for volunteers in a few weeks! It's important we get our parent volunteers now so we can move forward with all the event planning. For more information please contact the Committee heads listed below.

PICNIC – June 1, Monday, 12:30PM to 3:30PM
(Committee Heads - Eleni Lolas elolas@yahoo.com and Chris Co)



DANCE – June 4, Thursday, 6:30PM to 10:30PM
(Committee Head – Toni Reyes tinkylekia@hotmail.com)



GRAD BREAKFAST – June 5, Friday, 8:30AM to 9:00AM
(Committee Head – Jean Joh jean_joh@yahoo.com)



GRAD CEREMONY – June 5, Friday,
10AM to 12PM
(Committee Head – Jean Joh
jean_joh@yahoo.com)



Taylor Promotion Activities Criteria for Participation

In a young person's life, significant educational milestones are the completion of elementary school, middle school and high school. Beginning in January, anticipation builds toward June's promotion activities. Special traditions and activities include the 8th Grade Field Trip, Picnic, Dance and **Promotion Ceremony**.

Promotion activities are rewards for students who have earned the privilege to participate in these special events. Criteria for participation are listed below. The Taylor Middle School Administration reserves the right for final approval of attendance to these events.

8th Grade Field Trip – May 28, 2009. Attendance is based on the results of the 2nd trimester report card, March 10, 2009. Students receiving 2 "D's", 1 "F" grade or a "U" in conduct will be placed on the Loss of Privilege (LOP) list and are not eligible to attend. However, students have a chance to improve their conduct and/or grades and become eligible by the 3rd trimester progress report, April 28, 2009.

8th Grade Picnic – June 1, 2009. Students will attend a BBQ lunch prepared by teachers and PTA members followed by games and relays. Students earning a "U" in conduct on the 3rd trimester progress report, April 28, are not eligible to attend.

Promotion Dance – June 4, 2009, 6:30-10:00 p.m. An array of hors d'oeuvres, desserts and cold drinks will be served by parents during the dance at the Millbrae Recreation Center. Students on the April 28, 2009 LOP list are not eligible to attend. Students may earn the privilege back by completing a weekly progress report for the remainder of the 3rd trimester. Eligibility would hinge on satisfactory grades and/or conduct determined by final grades and administrative approval.

Promotion Ceremony – June 5, 2009. This culminating event at Mills High School will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the lanai. Students will take the stage at 10:00 a.m. to receive their promotion certificate. To participate in this ceremony, students must have a cumulative GPA of 1.5 during their 8th grade year.

Early Warning

- Students on the official promotion restriction list will be notified as soon as grades are processed.
- Students on this list will be restricted from the appropriate activity.
- At the end of the second trimester, students and parents will be notified about their continued academic performance, behavior or attendance may restrict them from participation in promotion activities.
- **During the third trimester in early May, teachers will notify parents and students via progress reports and parent contacts that a student is in danger of receiving an "F" or a "U" in conduct for the final trimester. If your son/daughter receives a "U" in conduct on his/her third trimester progress report, please contact the teacher for immediate intervention.**
- **The administration will notify parents and students if students' participation in promotion activities is in jeopardy due to attendance or discipline issues. Compelling situations will be reviewed by the administration.**

By signing below, I/we acknowledge being informed of the Criteria for Participation in 8th Grade Taylor **Promotion** Activities. Failure to return this form on time could result in disciplinary action.

PRINT Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

PRINT Student Name

Student Signature

Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED LETTER TO YOUR MATH TEACHER



Please support TAYLOR MIDDLE SCHOOL Your donations help offset budget cuts!

Here are some easy ways you can get involved and help your student's school:

PTA

We encourage all parents to join the Taylor Middle School PTA. Your participation helps our school!

Office Depot

Office Depot will give 5% of all qualifying purchases to Taylor School if you mention the school to the cashier. Our number is ID# 70010836, but you can ask the cashier to look up the number if you don't have it with you. This offer has sometimes been extended through the school year, so always be sure to ask if it is available.

Lucky Shares

We have ordered Lucky SHARES cards for use whenever you shop at Lucky. Please pick them up from the school office and be sure to use them to help raise additional funds for Taylor. Supplies are limited, but we can order more when needed.



Save Your Box Tops!



A quick and easy way to earn money for our school is by clipping the Box Tops for Education coupons from hundreds of packages of food and paper items. Just look for the Box Tops for Education coupons on the packages of Kleenex, Ziploc, Betty Crocker, Green Giant, Pillsbury products and many more. Please visit www.btfe.com for a list of over 200 products that support this program. Our school earns 10 Cents per coupon. It may not seem much, but it adds up quickly. Our goal this year is to raise \$1000.00. Have your child bring in the coupons to their 6th or 7th grade core classes or their 8th grade English class and dispense them into the Box Tops collection box. The class that collects the most Box Tops will be given a pizza party!!!! For more information contact Chairperson Judy Miyake-Wong 650.692.3040

eScrip

Registering with eScrip is quick and easy. **Best of all, it doesn't cost you anything!** Just register your cards at the website and then continue shopping as you usually do, while earning money for Taylor. Anyone, even in another part of the country, can sign up to support Taylor through this program. Please be sure to sign up right away and encourage your relatives and friends to do so as well.

Here are the quick and easy steps to sign up online:

Go to <http://www.escrip.com> Group Name: Taylor Middle School PTAGroup #: 500006152

To date we have 117 people signed up and have raised approximately \$1,200.00 as a result. We have approximately 850 students at Taylor. Our goal is to have 500 people signed up for the program.



PTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Please note that some events may be added and dates may change, watch future Newssettes for updates)

Date	Event
April 2, 2009	Math Fair
April 6-13, 2009	Spring Recess (12:30 dismissal on 4/3)
Thursday April 16, 2009, 7 p.m.	PTA Meeting
Saturday April 18, 2009, 6-9 p.m.	Family Bingo Night
May 18-21, 2009	Book Fair
Thursday May 14, 2009, 7 p.m.	PTA Meeting
Thursday May 21, 2009, 7 p.m.	Open House
Friday May 22, 2009	Staff Appreciation luncheon
Thursday May 28, 2009	8th Grade Field Trip
Monday June 1, 2009	8th Grade Picnic
Thursday June 4, 2009	8th Grade Dance
Thursday June 4, 2009	Last Day of School at Taylor
Friday June 5, 2009	8th Grade Commencement

Visit the PTA on the web: TaylorMiddleSchoolPTA.org