

# NEWSLETTER

Community Partnerships Academy  
Berkeley High School



November, 2006

web site: <http://www.bhscpa.org>

## Important Parent Meeting

The next parent meeting is Thursday, November 16th from 7 pm to 9 pm in the College and Career Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the D building. Please come. We need help planning our Holiday Party and providing solutions to problems with Advanced Biology and American Literature.

Problems in Advanced Biology aren't new to us. The class is a *gateway* to other college requirements where, for the first time, sophomores must combine their English, math, analysis and, most important, organizational skills. Help for students is available Monday through Friday in H202. To help us understand the problems students face, we've invited the teacher, Mr. Diab, to the meeting. Last year, Mr. Diab pointed to two problems (no notebooks and tardies) that parents were able to solve.

Students are also struggling in American Literature, partly because we've had three different junior English teachers in three years so no looping has occurred. A more acute problem is that students aren't turning in assignments so grades are low. We talked to the teacher, Ms. Jenkins, and now have a unique opportunity to make a difference. She would like two or three parents to come into the classroom on Monday through Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> periods, from 12:15 to 2:15 PM, to help keep students on task. You don't have to commit to all days, but it would be useful if you could commit to something regular, like, say Mondays, 5<sup>th</sup> period. If you can help, email Rich Hemphill at [admin@bhscpa.org](mailto:admin@bhscpa.org) or tell Flora.

Another solution for American Literature is to start a study group to create a sense of camaraderie and help students help themselves. Ms Jenkins would provide weekly assignments and we could get our students together for an hour or so on weekends to do the work. This would definitely help students who aren't turning in assignments. As always, there is

general help available after school, Monday through Friday, in room H202.

## Meet Jackie Jenkins

Jackie graduated from Princeton University with a



B.A. in English literature and a minor in African-American Studies. She went on to Stanford to receive her

teaching credential in English, an M.A. in Education, and a Ph.D. in Modern Thought & Literature, for which she's currently writing her dissertation.

This is Jackie's first year teaching at Berkeley High School. For the last seven years, Jackie taught humanities and writing courses at The Greenwich Academy, a small private school in Connecticut and at Stanford while she was working on her Ph.D. She also spent two years in Okinawa, Japan working for the University of Maryland's Asian Division. Last year she taught at June Jordan School for Equity, a small-by-design high school in San Francisco.

Jackie's philosophy of education is that all students can thrive in a personalized environment where teachers, parents, administrators, and students combine heads, hands, and hearts to increase student achievement. In her ideal school, all classes would be thematically organized to increase student engagement, and the curriculum would prepare students to become independent, critical thinkers who crave higher education and a more just world.

She believes that good thinking leads to effective communication skills and that becoming a more effective communicator allows students to feel empowered to change their lives and the world at large.

## About Our Career Courses

CP Academy's focus as a small school is on preparing students for professional careers that serve community needs.

During the junior year, **Introduction to Community Service Professions** lets students explore a career field through internships in areas such as health, law, government and education. Usually two days a week are devoted to internships. We spend one period a week on college preparatory activities, acquainting students with college options, introducing them to college requirements, and preparing them for the PSAT and other tests.

Once students have internships, we begin teaching professional skills such as communication, objective observation and reporting, accessing community resources, cultural competency, and professional ethics. Students document their internships for inclusion in their portfolios, and develop resumes, as well as letters of introduction and recommendation.

In the senior year, CP Academy students take **BEST** (Berkeley Experiential Senior Transition). They begin in September to develop career goals, map out a five-year plan, and start the college application process. College representatives visit the class, advisors are brought in to meet with seniors one-on-one, and the senior class visits two UCs and SF State. In the meantime, the curriculum covers skills needed for life after high school, such as budgeting, credit and loans, nutrition, and relationships. The major focus of the course, however, is the senior project.

The senior project is more than an internship. It is a deep exploration of a topic that the student chooses. It includes library, online, and ethnographic research. Students meet with mentors and develop annotated bibliographies on their topics. By the end of May, students have written comprehensive research papers and documented 60 hours of field study. Some will have taken college courses related to their topics. This work provides the basis for their senior exhibition, which family, mentors, and community partners are invited to help evaluate.

Together these two classes have been crucial in making sure that all our students get a chance to explore professional careers, develop a post-secondary plan, and get support with the college application process.

## Did You Know?

Berkeley High provides **Universal Breakfast** free to all students every morning from 7:30-8:15.

Reduced price **Bart Tickets** are sold every month at lunchtime at the ticket booth window in the D Building. The price is \$16.00 for a \$32.00 value ticket, cash only please and exact change is appreciated. Tickets are returned to Berkeley High in five working days. Announcements are made in the Daily Bulletin when tickets are ready for pickup. The next order will be taken on November 21 and 22nd because of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Orders for December will be done the same way. To find out more, call Irma Parker at 644-8524

All CP Academy students now have access to **Career Locker**, a website that helps them prepare for a successful career by researching occupations and schools and learning about resumes, budgets, and job hunting skills. To find out more, go to the website (<http://careerlocker.com>) and take a guest tour. Next month we'll interview CP Academy students to see what they're doing with Career Locker. Stay Tuned.

## *Holiday Party*

*For CP Academy Families*

*\* Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>*

*\* 6:00 PM*

*\* Washington School*

*Pot Luck \* Prizes \* Games*

*\* Karaoke \* Talent Show*

Help make it happen! Email Karen Davis ([kdavis@placertitle.com](mailto:kdavis@placertitle.com)) to volunteer or sign up at the parent council meeting on November 16th.