

NEWSLETTER

Community Partnerships Academy
Berkeley High School



September 2007

website: <http://www.bhscpa.org>

Welcome Back!

We hope your year has gotten off to a great start! Here are a few suggestions for ensuring your student's success at Berkeley High:

- Your child has homework every day. To find out what it is, go to <http://www.bhscpa.org>, the CPA website. Click the Homework button, then the teacher's name, and then the name of the class.
- Check in now with your child's teachers. Clicking the Homework button on our website gives you a list of teachers' email addresses and phone numbers. Use emails or phone calls to connect with teachers and find out how your child is doing in areas like getting to class on time, behavior, and turning in work. You can also click the Meet Our Teachers link on the website to get to know each teacher through a short video and profile.
- Stay connected with teachers through emails, letters, or phone. Use the CPA Website to monitor class assignments. Attend the Parent Council meetings on the third Thursday of each month.
- Set a regular time and quiet place for homework. Encourage your student to use the BHS Organizer to track assignments and prioritize their busy lives.
- Make sure your student knows about the Homework Center in H202, Tuesday through Thursday beginning at 3:20 pm. If those times aren't convenient, check the CP Academy or PTSA website to find out about the other homework help centers at BHS.

Parent Meeting, Thursday, 9/20

This year's first Parent Council Meeting will be on Thursday, September 20th from 7 pm to 9 pm in the College and Career Center on the 2nd floor of the "D" Building. We will discuss how parents can plug into CP Academy through communications, community building, internships, and fund raising, and by sending

four members to the Leadership Council. We will also talk about what we want to accomplish this year.

Welcome Back Wyn Skeels

CP Academy has a new co-coordinator this year. Wyn Skeels, a former CP Academy teacher who left



Berkeley High temporarily with the class of '05 to work on his Master's Degree in Educational Administration, is back to co-coordinate CP Academy with Annie Johnston. (Flora Russ will still be with us. Read about her Computer Class on the next page.) Wyn will also teach Senior English Writing and

Composition, including the AP component of the class, and Senior Transition, a class that includes preparation of the Senior Portfolio and field study for the Senior Project.

Wyn graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in English Literature, obtained his teaching credential from San Francisco State, and taught social studies for many years. He is uniquely qualified to work with CP Academy, not only because he was with us before, but because he believes strongly that personalizing school for students and building relationships between students, teachers, and parents to create a community is the basis for student success. Wyn says that he is "happy to be back, happy to be working with the incredible CP Academy staff, and happy to be working with seniors." More than anything, he wants students to be empowered while they are at Berkeley High School and when they go out into the world.

Meet Julia Gartner

Although Julia Gartner has been at Berkeley High School for two years, this is her first year working with CP Academy, teaching Chemistry and Advanced Biology. Julia has a BA from Carleton College, an MA from the University of Colorado, and a teaching credential from Mills College. She is an avid runner and climber, having climbed El



Capitain in Yosemite this past summer. Julia also spent a summer traveling with students to Costa Rica, monitoring endangered Leatherback sea turtles and she's hoping to take students to the Galapagos Islands next summer. What does Julia say about her philosophy of teaching? "I want to encourage student interest in science. I want to give students a license to see themselves as scientists, and teach them the tools to access any scientific question or exploration that interests them. Science is often viewed as complex, mysterious, and elitist, but I believe that science can be accessible to everyone when we learn to question, think, and examine our world scientifically. I believe in the importance of personal connections and in valuing every student for what they bring to the class and what they achieve in their work."

Other News

- This year, the CP Academy is bringing back the WriterCoach Connection to work with our Freshman and Sophomore English classes. We need parent volunteers to work as coaches. If your child doesn't want you in the classroom, you can work in another class. See the enclosed flyer for more information.
- With help from the BHS technology department, CP Academy is upgrading the computers in all our classrooms. H202 will have new iMacs, and the old iMacs will be upgraded and replace older computers in some classrooms. Together with the portable Mac lab purchased for us by ROP last year, and the BCC software applications class, our technology resources are looking better than ever! Teachers will be working to integrate technology throughout the curriculum to

make sure our students' skills are up to par.

- Berkeley High provides **Universal Breakfast FREE** to **all** students every morning from 7:30-8:15.
- If you're eligible for free or reduced lunch, keep your eligibility letter to show to Ms. Abrams at the college center so that you can take the SAT for free.

Counselor's Corner



Caren Ohlson is the counselor for all CP Academy families. You can always contact her at 644-8987 or caren_ohlson@berkeley.k12.ca.us.

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful and fun summer. My new office is in room H-215, just around the corner from the CP Academy classrooms.

9th Grade Families: Welcome to CP Academy! As your Counselor, I will be a resource for you as you navigate Berkeley High School. I will meet with each student this year to say hello, and talk about their goals for high school and beyond. It is important for us to get to know each other as I am one of the people who writes your recommendations for jobs, scholarships and college!

10th Grade Families: 10th grade is an important year for college admissions. If you haven't already, now is the time to get that extra tutoring in challenging classes! Please call me if you need tutoring recommendations

11th Grade Families: All 11th graders should sign up for the PSAT in October in preparation for the SAT. This is the year to start exploring where you might like to attend college. The websites <http://www.princetonreview.com> and <http://www.collegeboard.com> are great for college information. Come by my office to check out career insights software that you can use to see what career fields might fit your personality and interests.

12th Grade Families: College application time is here! Call me or visit my office if I can help you with financial aid information, essay preparation, recommendations, or advice. I'll meet with seniors individually during first semester. The first SAT test this year is October 6th and the registration deadline is September 10. Pick up forms in the College/Career Center or sign up at <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

Newsletter Inquiries: Submit questions, ideas, or stories for the CP Academy Newsletter to Marty Downey at Peterd1143@aol.com or call 644-1219.