

VIKING VOICE



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Next PTO Meeting Dates

February 17
March 24
April 21
May 12



PTO President's Message

Hello Mills Parents, Teachers, Students and Friends,

We are now more than half way through the school year. I can't believe it! It seems like just yesterday we were registering students, passing out books and getting ready for the first day of school. During the past semester there were many PTO sponsored events. In October we held the International Potluck in the East Gym where Mills families, teachers and staff came together to share dishes from all over the globe. Mills students demonstrated their talents with music and dancing from many countries and cultures. It was a very enjoyable evening. In the coming years, we hope to have many more events like this one!

Also in October, Assistant Principal, Irma Munoz, spoke at our regular PTO meeting held in the faculty lounge. She discussed **STAR test and API score results**. The STAR test measures students in 4 core areas and is taken every March/April. The API target score is 800 for all schools in California. The test also measures proficiency levels. Irma advised us that Mills is currently at 845, climbing since 2007. Mills is the highest performing school from Redwood City to Daly City. In particular, Latino student scores have grown over 44 points in last year. Way to go students!!

In November, SMUHSD's new Superintendent Scott Laurence, spoke to our group at the PTO meeting that month. Mr. Laurence presented his Focused Goals for the District in 2009-2010:

- Academic excellence for all students
- Improved communications and governance systems
- Measure M construction program and district budget
- Professional and personal responsibilities

Mr. Laurence also discussed the District's entry into Program Improvement under the Federal No Child Left Behind legislation. He discussed why the District was selected and what it is doing to satisfy the requirements for a successful exit from the program. If you would like more information about SMUHSD and Program Improvement, please visit the District's website at www.smuhsd.org, or contact our principal, Mr. Belzer.

Finally, during last semester, PTO awarded thousands of dollars in Excellence Fund grants to Mills teachers. A big **THANK YOU** to all who contributed to this fund to make these awards possible.

With memberships dues and donations, PTO pays for School Loop. If you are not registered yet, go to www.schoolloop.com and signup. Please use this online tool to monitor your student's homework assignments and grades and to communicate with teachers, counselors and administration. It is one of the best benefits conferred by the PTO.

PTO needs your help!! In February, a subcommittee will get together to review nominations for next year's PTO board and committee chairs. We need to fill PTO positions and start planning for the next school year. If you would like to volunteer for a PTO position, please e-mail Donna Schlimmer at schlimmo3@gmail.com. Let our students know that we care about their education with school involvement.

Our next PTO meeting is Wednesday February 17th in the Faculty lounge. Come listen to our speaker of the month and our principal, Mr. Belzer, who always gives a very interesting and informative talk about what is happening at the school.

Go to www.millshigh.org and see what's happening at Mills High School. Use School Loop. And watch MCTV on Millbrae's Comcast Channel 27 for more Mills News.

GO VIKINGS! Happy New Year and Happy Chinese New Year!

Joan Chipser

Mills PTO President



Principal's Message

Dear Fellow Vikings,



I hope this edition of the *Viking Voice* finds you warm and dry from all the recent rains these past few weeks. At Mills, the heavy rains in January reminded us how much we look forward to the completion of the new kitchen and cafeteria this spring, one of the first projects of the Measure M Modernization for the District. The winter rains also bring the beginnings of important student assessments with the California High School Exit Exam February 2nd and 3rd and the upcoming celebrations of the Chinese New Year in February. As true so often, the winter months bring significant activity to each engaging and productive school year.

In addition to the many activities occurring at Mills, there are a number of significant issues at the District and State levels which are important for parents to be aware of. As reported, the State is anticipating a \$19.9 billion budget shortfall which will clearly impact public education at all levels and will require districts and school boards to make challenging decisions. To help parents stay informed on this and other important information and news, the District has established a current and comprehensive web page at www.smuhsd.org.

To provide input and communication between the District and our larger school communities, the District has initiated two important committees. Considering the potential impact of the State Budget, the District has reconvened the Budget Advisory Committee and to assist with communication regarding Measure M work, the Citizen's Oversight Committee. Each school will be represented by at least one member of their parent community along with District and site personnel. Like the other schools in our District, Mills needs a member of our parent community to participate in each committee. If you are interested or know someone who is, please email me or Joan Chipser, PTO President. Experience in fiscal management and construction is preferred for the respective committees but is not required.

On a more local level, winter brings a variety of challenges and opportunities for students including the California High School Exit Exam being proctored this week. Sophomores have been reviewing test materials in their English and math classes in preparation for the test which all students are required to pass to receive a high school diploma. Student planning for next year also begins in February with the course selection process where students receive an overview of graduation requirements and course options for scheduling. Winter sports teams including basketball, soccer, and wrestling are in the prime of their seasons with each game and match offering a new opportunity for success and distinction. Amidst so much, it is important in these challenging times to remember that our children's success in the smaller moments is as significant as the larger issues we face. As the year moves forward, I encourage you to stay in touch with your students academic and extra-curricular activities. These are the issues that matter to them most.

The winter months bring two of my favorite traditions of Mills High School. The first is the SOAP (Students Organized Against Prejudice) Assembly. The SOAP Assembly, held this past Friday, is a consistent reminder of the possibilities of the future and that we are all responsible in making Mills the kind of school we can all be proud of. The second is the Lunar New Year celebrations. This year, Mills students will participate in celebrations with the City of Millbrae and our incredible Dragon Team will again command the streets of San Francisco in the Lunar New Year Parade. For me, both traditions demonstrate Mills' unique character of integrity and respect. Thanks to each of you for your continued support.

Go Vikings!
Paul Belzer, Principal



Counseling Department and Career Center

COUNSELING AND CAREER CENTER:

Seniors: You should be working on your financial aid documents. The deadline for the GPA Verification and FAFSA are on March 2nd, 2010. However, private colleges and universities have some times an earlier deadline. Make sure you check applications!

Counselors will conduct the Individual Learning Plans and Programming for school year 2010-2011 through the next few weeks.

On February 18th during 4th period the community colleges will present an orientation meeting for our students that wish to attend the community colleges. Students will need an in house field trip form to attend.



February 19th will be the end of the first grading period of the spring semester

Course Information Morning (formerly known as Elective Selection Morning) will take place on February 25th, and there will be a special schedule for that day..

Counseling Department is planning a Freshmen Academic Planning Night on March 4, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Freshmen Parents and Students are encouraged to attend this very informative evening. Please arrive on time for this important evening.

On March 18th during 4th period community colleges will conduct an applications workshop with information on PEP.

On March 18th at 5:45 p.m. Freshmen Orientation will be held in the Auditorium, followed by Open House at 7:00 p.m.

Incoming Freshmen Registration (now 8th graders) will take place in the East Gym on Wednesday, March 24th from 3:30p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on March 25th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Career Center:

Our 14th Annual Career Day was a great success thanks to the help from many: Administrators, Counselors, Classified Staff, Teachers, Students, and in particular our parents. I would also like to recognize the help of Ms. Muffie Calbreath, a former classified staff member, who returned to lend a helping hand where needed.

Special thanks to Mrs. Marian Kong for organizing the Continental Breakfast for the presenters, and managing the assignments of the parent helpers.

Thank you Parent Helpers Maria Vozaites, Eva Wong, Esther Hou, Naomi Yamaguchi, Shirley Lee, Angela Sun, Jayne Lee, Ross Sit, Norman Chin, Linda Muhawieh. Your help made this day go smoothly.

Thanks to our leadership class under the direction of Ms. Melissa Mayer and our Peer Helping Class overseen by Ms. Roberta Lighty, who were acting as our gracious hosts and hostesses.

Special thanks to the service commissioners that were directing traffic under the guidance of Dean Christian. Last, not least thank you to our wonderful presenters.

They generously donated their time and efforts to make this morning a success for all. We appreciate your kindness and dedication to Mills Students. Your contribution to our school community was tremendous, and in line with the old saying:

"It takes a whole village to raise a child"



Counseling Department and Career Center

Building and Construction Trades/Automotive	Presenter
Automotive Technology Instructor-Skyline College	Johnson, Julia
Construction and Carpentry Contractor	Catena, Claudio
Business/Accounting/Marketing/International Relations	
Accounting Instructor/Certified Public Accountant	Steinberg, Marvin
Business Development/Vice President	Arbabi, Amir '94
Dealer Sales Manager at SunWize Technologies Inc.	Westover, Jim
Global Brand Marketing Executive	Olivo, Allen
Inventory Planner	Michael Ferrario
Managing Partner at DCD Consulting Inc.	Day, Thomas
Real Estate Asset Manager/Wells Fargo	Bernstein, Zachary '03
Real Estate Broker and Income Tax Business Owner	Hui, Harry
Sales Manager Meltwater News	Mansuri, Sahil '05
Senior Online Marketing Manager at Coupons.com	Der-Wong, Kathryn '01
Statefarm Underwriter & Distributor of Securities Products	Tieu, Toan
Communications/Media	
Editor, Journalist, Consultant	Perry, Douglass C.
Sports Writer/Editor/San Francisco Chronicle	Kroner, Steve
Engineering/Computers/Tech Support	
Aerospace Engineer Lockheed Martin Corp	Bennett, Norman R.
Computer Science and Engineering	Arsiwala, Sakina
Engineering and Construction	Alger, Richard '65
Mechanical Vehicle Engineer Space Systems Loral	Park, Jason '01
Software Entrepreneur & Robotics Engineer	Park, Eric '99
Space Technology Development Program Manager	Williams, Dr. Scott

GRAD NIGHT: DON'T MISS OUT! - Register Before the Price Goes Up

Grad Night is a parent sponsored celebration for every member of the Mills High Class of 2010. This is a special night of food, fun, activities and memories. Grad Night provides a safe and sober environment for students to celebrate a milestone. You never hear people say they regret going to Grad Night., but they do regret not going. There are some events that don't give you a second chance.

The Mills High Grad Night committee is actively working to make the grad night celebration for the Class of 2010 a success. Students can register during lunch every Friday at the Grad Night table in center court.. Go to www.millsgradnight.com, to get questions answered, download forms, see calendar of upcoming events, deadlines and more. After February 12 the cost of a grad night ticket goes from \$125.00 to \$140.00. If you have questions or would like to get involved in planning Grad Night, please contact co-chairs Rosalyn Lum at lum.rosalyn@gmail.com or Donna Schlimmer at schlimmo3@gmail.com.

Graduation is only 4 months away!

Counseling Department and Career Center

Human Services	
Architect	Cribbins-Kuklin, Karen
Attorney at Law specializing in guardianship & conservatorships	Constantino, Paul
California Highway Patrol Public Information Officer	Montiel, Art
Certified Professional & International Investigator	Brown Jr, Samuel F.
Cosmetologist Coordinator Skyline College	Glenn, Josie
Culinary Specialist, International Culinary School	Hardwick, Kelly
Deputy District Attorney, Santa Clara County	Huang, Charles
Early Childhood Program Coordinator Skyline College	Rebele, Cecelia
Environmental Compliance Specialist	Allin-Tollstrup, Catherine
Environmental Real Estate Law Attorney	Noma, Kristine K.
Fire Fighter/Paramedic City of Millbrae	Spiteri, Anthony '92
Funeral Director/Mortician/Police Officer	Pappas, Jim '74
Middle School Teacher	DeZutti, Louis
Police Officer/Swat Operator	Kalkbrenner, Robert Michael
Recreation Supervisor	Schwartz, Jeff
Reserve Deputy Sheriff, San Mateo County	Cheever, Ephraim '01
U.S. Peace Corps/High School Mathematics Teacher	Headley, Nils
U.S. Peace Corps/High School Science Teacher	Paul, Grant
Humanities/Fine Arts	
Actor/Model	Wu, XingKai '00
CEO Digital Marketing Agency, Journalist/Artist	Padilla, Lisa
Entertainer/Dancer/Artist	Abramson, Constantine '99
Master Photographer/Dawdy Photography	Dawdy, Tom '66
Senior Graphic Designer/Production Designer	Der, Gary '02
Military	
United States Army	Recruiter
United States Marine Corps	Recruiter
United States Navy	Recruiter
Science/Health	
Chiropractor	Yu, Dr. Simon '91
Clinical Lab Scientist	Naval, Gloria
Emergency Physician	Chin, Dr. Stephen
Home Health Physical Therapist	Senffner, Karen Marie
Immunohematology Specialist at UCSF	Eagan, Ellen
Optometrist	Fong-Choy, Dr. Pamela
Pediatrician	Kasuga, Dr. Albert R.
Pharmaceutical Research of Chinese Herbs	Chow, Dr. John
Pharmacist in Charge	Chan-Wong, Jane
Scientist, Molecular Biology, Genentech Inc.	Neve, Dr. Richard M.

Counseling Department and Career Center

PREVENTING TEEN ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE: WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

As young people move into their teens, parents face seemingly endless challenges to ensure their adolescents' health and safety - an increasingly difficult and stressful task as teens push for more independence. Parents want to ensure that their teens make the right choices, hang out with the "right" people, and live productive, alcohol- and drug-free lives.

It is important for parents to know the facts about alcohol and drug use and to be prepared, considering nearly a third of 12- and 13-year-olds has been offered and used an illicit drug. However, it's promising that when teens know the facts, dangers, and risks associated with drug use they are 42% less likely to use them.

To help teen parents and families prevent and address teen alcohol and drug abuse, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Health Information Network created *Caring for Our Youth* Web site (<http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/cfoy.aspx>).

The Web site includes quick links to information, available for quick download or hard-copy mail order. The resources offer parents and families access to trusted information to help prevent and address alcohol and drug use, including research and facts, signs and symptoms, tips for talking to teens, and more. Some resources are also available in Spanish.

Resources

SAMHSA <http://www.samhsa.gov> 1-877-SAMHSA-7

Caring for Our Youth <http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/cfoy.aspx> 1-800-729-6686

Too Smart To Start <http://www.toosmarttostart.samhsa.gov>

Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator 1-800-662-HELP

<http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov>



When parents are actively involved in their teens' lives, teens are more apt to avoid circumstances involving alcohol and drugs. Research shows that teens that are not regularly monitored by their parents are four times more likely to use drugs, compared with regularly-monitored teens. The family guide, *Keeping Your Kids Drug Free* offers the following tips for teen parents:

Know what your children are doing — their activities and how they spend their time.

It's not pestering, it's parenting.

Know who your teen's friends are.

Check in with the parents who are hosting the party your teen will be attending.

Praise and reward good behavior

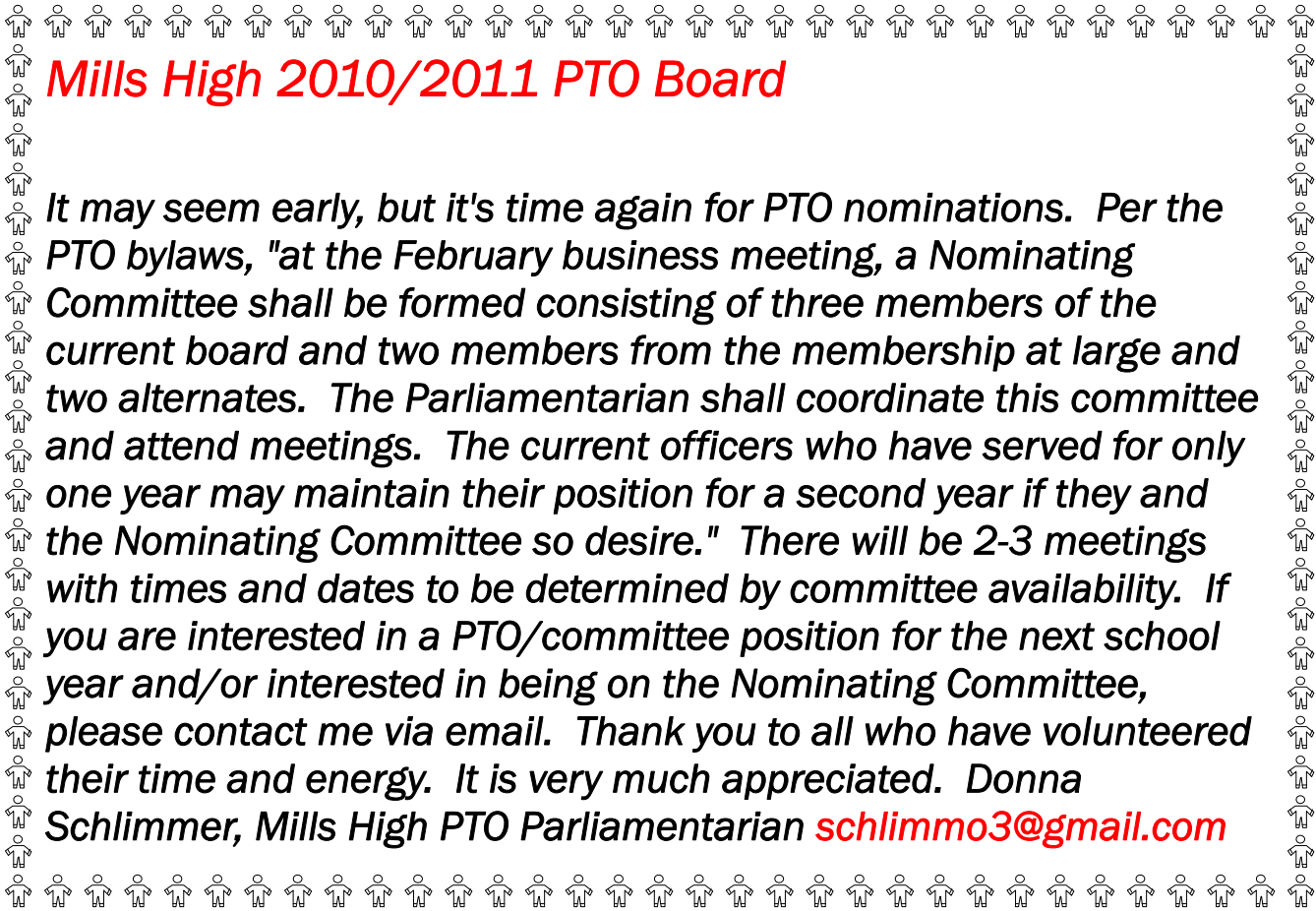
Before going out, have them tell you: - WHO they are going to be spending time with

- WHAT they will be doing

- WHEN or what time they will be at their expected destination

- WHERE they are going to be.

Every once in a while, check on your teens to see if they're where they said they would be.



Mills High 2010/2011 PTO Board

It may seem early, but it's time again for PTO nominations. Per the PTO bylaws, "at the February business meeting, a Nominating Committee shall be formed consisting of three members of the current board and two members from the membership at large and two alternates. The Parliamentarian shall coordinate this committee and attend meetings. The current officers who have served for only one year may maintain their position for a second year if they and the Nominating Committee so desire." There will be 2-3 meetings with times and dates to be determined by committee availability. If you are interested in a PTO/committee position for the next school year and/or interested in being on the Nominating Committee, please contact me via email. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time and energy. It is very much appreciated. Donna Schlimmer, Mills High PTO Parliamentarian schlimmo3@gmail.com

Mills PTO By-Law Committee

Mill High School PTO board has decided it is time to update and revise the PTO by-laws. The by-laws were last revised and approved April 2002. The current by-laws do not provide a procedure for revision (one of the issues to be addressed), but we are looking for 3-5 current members of the PTO to form a revision committee. Meeting times and dates are to be announced, based on committee availability. The hope is to have revisions complete for a vote at the May PTO meeting. If the revisions are not complete by the of the school year, a new committee will be formed by the new PTO board. If you are interested in being on the by-laws revision committee, please contact me via email, schlimmo3@gmail.com
Thank you, Donna Schlimmer, PTO Parliamentarian

(ills Music Art Group (MMAG))

MMAG is the parent boosters for Mills High School music programs. We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Music Room, during the school year.

On Feb. 5-8, 2010, MMAG sponsored a major music performance trip to Disneyland. Over a hundred people attended. We had lots of fun on this trip, but more importantly, it was also a challenge for students, as they performed on the Disneyland stage in front of the public and were recorded in a professional studio.

We had an astounding success with our performance in the Winter Concert on December 10th, 2009. Our students performed flawlessly in front of all the parents and the community leaders from The Millbrae Rotary Club. The Millbrae Rotary Club even sponsored the MCTV video taping costs. Thank you very much Rotary!

Car wash fund raising is one of our major sources of funding. This semester, MMAG and the Music student will sponsor another car wash on April 17th, we wish the results will surpass that of last semester.

Our Pep band had participated in all the Mills football and basketball games, cheering the on players. The best was on November 14th, 2009 at Cappuccino, where Mills beat our rival Cappuccino Mustangs. Go Vikings.....Go!

March 2010 will mark a busy month for our music students, especially for those few who were selected to participate in the "In Concert XIII" on March 13th, which is a district wide music performance event. The music students will also perform in the Mills Musical "Smile" from March 25th to 28th, in addition to competing in the CMEA Festival on March 20th.

I am looking forward for your continuing support and participation to promote a great music program, one of the largest on campus with 150 participating students.

Sincerely,
 Jack Wan
 2009-2010 MMAG president

MILLS VIKING VOICE SCHEDULE 2009-2010

ISSUE #	E-MAIL REMINDER	COPY DEADLINE (<i>last day to submit articles, advertisements, etc.</i>)	TARGET DELIVERY TO MHS WEBSITE
#4 March/April/May	April 16 - Friday	April 23 - Friday	May 3 - Monday

Note: Spring Break: April 5 - April 9

****Viking Voice is available online only****





**Mills High School Annual Fund
Your Share Counts Plan**

Yes! We are happy to participate in the Mills Your Share Counts Plan.

Name(s): _____
(As you would like your name(s) to appear in printed materials.)

Student's Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

I would like my donation to be Anonymous.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Circle..... | \$1000+ |
| <small>Gold Circle donors will receive a Mills sweatshirt in addition to the All-Season Family Pass to district sports events and school activities open to the public.</small> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Circle..... | \$751 - \$999 |
| <small>Red Circle donors will receive an All-Season Family Pass to district sports events and school activities open to the public.</small> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair Share Family Plan..... | \$750 |
| <small>Three students or more</small> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair Share Plus..... | \$500 |
| <small>Your student plus sponsorship of another student</small> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair Share..... | \$250 |
| <small>Per Student</small> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other..... | \$ _____ |

Please make checks payable to **Mills High School**, 400 Murchison Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030. Donations are 100% tax-deductible. Tax ID # 94-2700919.

Please note that many companies will match employee donations made to public schools. Please contact your Human Resources Department.

Donors will be recognized on the Mills website and the End-of-Year Viking Voice.

Thank you for your support!

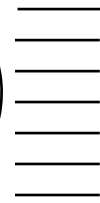
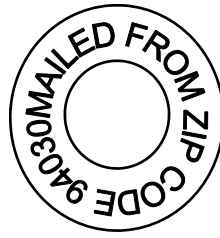




Calendar

February	
8	7pm Grad Night Parents— Faculty Lounge
11	7pm Board Meeting - San Mateo SMART Center
15	President's Day—Holiday—NO SCHOOL
16	7pm Spring Sports Parents meeting—Auditorium
17	6pm Sports Boosters meeting —Library 7pm PTO meeting— Faculty Lounge
March	6PM Freshman Academic Planning—Auditorium
4	7pm Mills Musical Arts Group (MMAG) - Music Room
8	7pm Grad Night Parents—Faculty lounge
11	7pm Board Meeting—San Mateo SMART Center
18	7pm OPEN HOUSE
19	MINIMUM DAY
24	6PM Sports Booster meeting—Library 7pm PTO meeting—Faculty Lounge
April	
1	7pm Board Meeting—San Mateo SMART Center 7pm Mills Musical Arts Group (MMAG) - Music Room
5–9	SPRING BREAK—NO SCHOOL
21	6pm Sports Boosters meeting—Library 7pm PTO meeting—Faculty Lounge
29	7pm Spring Concert—Auditorium 7pm Board Meeting—San Mateo SMART Center
May	
6	7pm Mills Musical Arts Group (MMAG) - Music room
10	7pm Grad Night Parents—Faculty Lounge
12	6pm Sports Boosters meeting—Library 7pm PTO meeting—Faculty Lounge
13	7pm Board Meeting—San Mateo SMART Center
14	7pm—10pm Last Dance—East Gym
19	6pm Senior Awards Night—Auditorium
25	FINALS—Minimum Day
26	FINALS—Minimum Day 4pm—7pm Graduation Rehearsals @ San Mateo Performing Arts Center
27	FINALS—Minimum Day 4pm—7pm Graduation Rehearsals @ San Mateo Performing Arts Center
28	5pm GRADUATION @ San Mateo Performing Arts Center

Produced and mailed by:
Vikings Parent Group
400 Murchison Drive
Millbrae, CA 94030



Check out the NEW Mills High
web site at: www.millshigh.org

Find out about
athletics games,
meets and matches at:
www.mhsvikings.com

Stay Connected!

Be sure to get on the Mills PTO email list, you will receive important updates regarding the latest events in the Mills High community. To be added in, please contact Jean Joh at (650)636-3147 or jean.joh@yahoo.com

