



Ramtracks

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Mark Your Calendar:

- **Book Fair**
Nov. 4th – 12th
- **Koffee with Kollman**
Nov 5th
- **No School**
Wed, Nov. 11th,
Veterans Day.
- **PTA Meeting**
Nov. 12th
- **Casino Royale**
Nov. 13th
- **School Site Council Meeting**
Nov. 19th
- **No School**
Nov. 26th and 27th,
Thanksgiving Recess

Congratulations to 7B Girls Volleyball; they made it to the playoffs!

Memo from the PTA President

I am happy to report that we continue to be having a great year at Ralston, filled with lots of volunteers, enthusiasm and dedication. Thanks to Shelley Hunter, we have completed our membership campaign (you can still join!!) and have nearly 400 members. I would also like to thank Nina Rego, Melissa Durlfosky, Shelly Muldoon, Gail Kazakoff and Laura Hendriksen and their many volunteers for their wonderful work with the Hot Lunch & Ice Cream program. Lori Moon and her many volunteers donated a lovely lunch to show our appreciation to the teachers.

Thanks to all of you who have participated in the Write-a-Check campaign, and to Annie Ferme for all of her work. We are close to our goal of \$29,000 but there is still time to donate in case you weren't able to already participate. Please make your check out to the Ralston PTA and drop it off in the Ralston office!

Thanks to the success so far of the Write-a-Check campaign, and our Hot Lunch and eScrip programs, the Ralston PTA has been able to approve \$20,000 of expenditures toward technology to purchase nine laptops, three LCD projectors and several *Smartboards*. We have also been able to fund a lunchtime sports intramural program, the Safe Schools Ambassador Training, as well as partially fund a number of field trips, and subsidize the first round of After-School Clubs. This is in addition to funding the Binder Reminders, the back-to-school packets and \$200 per teacher for supplies.

Please remember to vote in this upcoming election on Tuesday, November 3rd, as the choice for the Sequoia Union High School District Board will affect many of our students who will continue their education in the Sequoia Union High School District. Remember to carefully review the candidates and cast your votes for those who you think are most able to ensure the best education for our children planning to attend Carlmont High School.

Our next PTA meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12th at 7:00pm in the Ralston Library. Principal Jennifer Kollmann will give us an update on school activities. Everyone is welcome to attend. It is a great way to meet other parents, stay informed about school activities and become an advocate for the students and the issues that affect them.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas!

Geri Crane
2009-10 PTA President
gericrane@yahoo.com

News from Student Government...

During October, we had a fundraiser called *Heavenly Hats* to help buy hats for children with cancer. For a donation of a dollar, the students were allowed to wear their hats for the day. We also had a hat show at lunch where the students could show off their hats. We raised \$620.

Our Book Drive was a huge success; the school donated 4,150 books in only one week!!!!!!!
Read about it on-line in the San Mateo Daily Journal at http://smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=117600

Our first spirit week of the year was a hit! All days were Halloween themed.

Mon: Ghost day
Tues: Crazy hair
Wed: Crazy socks
Thurs: Black and orange
Fri: Costume day

Everyone got into the *spirit* of the events.

THIS & THAT

BOOK FAIR

Hello Ralston Parents,

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Ralston School November 4th - 12th.

Maggie King, our new librarian, is looking for parent volunteers to help with the book fair. She is requesting help during school hours each day of the book fair. Note that Wed., November 11th is a school holiday.

The book fair is an opportunity to check out the wonderful books that Scholastic has to offer and a great way to purchase gifts for the upcoming holidays.

If you are interested and available to help, please contact Maggie King at 650-637-4880 or email her at MKing@brssd.org. You may also check the following website: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/rallston>

Thank You!

BELMONT YOUTH WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE SIGN UPS

Place: Ralston Middle School
Season: Nov. 28 (clinic) – Jan. 30
Opening Day: Nov. 28 Clinic at Ralston
Ages: Kindergarten – 6th grade
Information: Randy Metheany, (650) 703-4740
Website: www.mmyouthsports.com



Ten Things to Know About Box Tops

1. Our latest Box Tops submittal was worth \$433.00! Thank you!
2. Our 2009/2010 Box Tops Goal is \$1,100.
3. Box Tops are worth 10 cents each. It all adds up!
4. Box Tops support the Ralston PTA!
5. If you cut off or can't read the box tops date, they have to be thrown away.
6. Box Tops have an expiration date!
7. Box Tops can be sent in anytime to your child's homeroom or the office.
8. You can visit the Box Tops website at <http://www.boxtops4education.com>.
9. For any questions on box tops, you can contact the box tops coordinator at Kristen.L.Wright@gmail.com.
10. We need your help to make our goal.

ARTS and MUSIC

Thank you! 7th Annual Save the Music Festival



On behalf of the Save the Music Festival committee, I would like to personally thank every volunteer and community member who made the 7th annual event a great day. Over 300 volunteers - many of them students - provided an event both fun and safe for thousands of community members. I would like to especially thank the performers, and our music teachers, for giving so much of their time and talent.

Although the numbers are still being tallied, we are confident we met our goal of \$60,000. In addition, the event raised awareness of the exceptional talent that exists within our schools. The majority of the money raised at the Festival came from our generous sponsors -- please help me thank Oracle, Wells Fargo, Janet Pepe Davis, the City of Belmont, Mistral Restaurant, See's Candies, Redwood Shores Community Association, Pacific Rubber, San Carlos-Belmont Mothers Club, and the Belmont Chamber of Commerce.

We hope to see you again next year!

Alan Sarver, Event Chair

OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ACTORS TO VISIT CARLMONT

The Carlmont Arts Council hosts Oregon Shakespeare Festival actors Mariko Nakasone and Mark Bedard. They will perform excerpts from Shakespeare and other classical and contemporary literature. One act will be a survey of fools and clowns in Shakespeare's plays. The second act, "The Odds of Love" will contain scenes from contemporary plays. The program is designed for Middle School and High School students.

The School Visit Program is part of the Festival's ongoing commitment to bring live theatre to students. At the conclusion of the Festival's 2008 season, six teams of actors visited 126 schools and organizations, reaching over 61,000 students in four states.

For many students, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's School Visitation Program has afforded them their first encounter with live theatre. One student wrote, "I thought the actors did a fabulous job. They made me want to learn more about Shakespeare and his different plays."

DATE: Tuesday, November 17, 2009

TIME: 7:00 – 8:45pm including one intermission
Doors open at 6:15pm

PLACE: Carlmont Performing Arts Center
1400 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont

Drop off and Parking available at the Senior Lot under the Marquee on Alameda

COST: \$5 per person at the door, exact change encouraged
\$1 each for snacks

We hope to see you there!

Carlmont Arts Council
Carlmontartscouncil@gmail.com





If you have questions about events for middle school families and students, please contact Paula Meier psmeier@pacbell.net

Visit Carlmont's website – get the facts about Carlmont High School!! www.carlmont.seq.org

8th Grade Transition Team:
595-0210 ext. 8400

HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

We hope many of you had a chance to visit Carlmont High School during the "Parent Information Night" on October 20th. More events for 8th grade parents and students will be coming in January -- details to follow. Our goal is to familiarize future Scots and their families with all the wonderful things Carlmont High School has in store for you!

Shadowing at Carlmont

The Shadowing Program provides an opportunity for 8th grade students to spend a day on Carlmont's campus "shadowing" a current 9th grade student. All shadows must be pre-arranged.

Our 8th grade student Shadowing Program will run from November 2, 2009 until March 4, 2010. Interested parents are welcome to complete and fax us the "Shadow Fax Back Request" form http://carlmont.seq.org/images/fax_back_form_2009.pdf or telephone our 8th Grade Transition Line at 595-0210, ext. 8400. Our preferred method is using the fax form; however, if you are leaving a telephone message, please include as much information as possible as noted on the form.

Transfer Requests to Sequoia Union High School District

The deadline for Open Enrollment Transfer Requests to the Sequoia Union High School District is **January 22, 2010.**

Parent / Student Coffees

Three 8th Grade Parent/Student informational coffees will be offered in January 2010. The dates are **Thursday, January 14th, Wednesday, January 20th, and Tuesday January 26th.** These evening events will be held in the Carlmont Library at 7:30 and offer 8th grade parents and students an informal opportunity to learn more about the program at Carlmont and to ask questions of Carlmont principal Raul Zamora, teachers, parents and current Carlmont students.

Carlmont Events

Many other opportunities exist for middle school students to get acquainted with various activities and the Carlmont facility. These include Parent/Student coffees in January, sporting events, music and drama programs, and Open House on March 25, 2010.



Carlmont presents *The Diary of Anne Frank*

Tickets are now on sale for Carlmont High School's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* in the beautiful new Carlmont High School Performing Arts Center.

Dates: Thursday, Friday and Saturday November 12 - 14 at 7pm, and Sunday November 15th at 2 PM.

The admission price is \$8 for students and seniors and \$10 for adults.

Purchase tickets at: www.carlmontperformingarts.com for best seats, or at the door one hour prior to curtain.

For more information, see <http://diaryofannefrank-carlmont.blogspot.com/>



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NORDSTROM

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Don your best James Bond Attire for a shaken, not stirred evening at our...

2nd Annual Casino Royale!

Presenting:

Diamonds Are Forever

Our District-wide Fundraiser
Friday, November 13th, 2009
Pacific Athletic Club 7:30-Midnight

Our Casino includes:

- 13 Casino Tables including Craps, Roulette and Blackjack
- Two Poker tournaments with one Grand Prize Winner
- Exciting Raffle prizes for lucky Casino Winners or purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win
- Automatically entered into our Door Prize Raffle Drawings that happen throughout the night with the purchase of your ticket



To add to your fun, we have:

- A Champagne “Gems” Bar; purchase glass of champagne and an ice cube will be dropped into it containing a semi-precious stone, or possibly a diamond.
- Champagne “Tag-A-Bag”; pay and tag a wrapped bottle of champagne and you may be lucky enough to receive a bottle valued over \$200.00
- Dancing
- Hors d’ Oeuvres and Desserts
- No Host Bar



There will also be A LIVE AUCTION with exciting offerings and “Fund-a-Need” to support a specific district need to keep our schools great!

Tickets are on sale now through November 6th, on a first come, first serve basis, until sold out. Donation is \$55.00 per person and can be purchased by filling out a ticket purchase form with the check attached and returned to your child’s homeroom **or** Order Online (nominal convenience fee will apply): <http://sfevents.eventbrite.com/>
(Tickets will not be available at the door the night of the event.)

This event is co-sponsored by District PTAs and School-Force, the Belmont Redwood-Shores Public School Education Foundation. Proceeds will benefit School-Force.
Event Chairperson: Deanna Bartee deejoy@comcast.net



School-Force!

**THE BELMONT-REDWOOD SHORES
PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION**

Annual Giving Campaign Kick Off

On November 18th & 19th School-Force volunteers will be calling all Ralston school families who have not yet donated or pledged to give to the School-Force Education Foundation. Parental support is crucial for all our children's education so please ANSWER THE CALL and donate generously to save critical programs for next year. Suggested donation is \$500 per student, but all donations are greatly appreciated.

Does Your company Match Donations?

Did you know that many corporations will match their employee's educational donations? You may be able to greatly increase the impact of your donation by having it matched by your employer. Last year the foundation received \$57,000 through corporate matching. Now is the time to ask your employer if they have a corporate matching program. To learn more please read the foundation corporate matching page: <http://www.schoolforce.org/donate/company-matching>

Can't give as much as you'd like? Volunteer your time!

Even if you can't give as much this year, you can still have a huge impact by volunteering your time. Volunteers are needed for the phone-a-thon to help spread the word to all the district families. It only takes a couple hours in the evening and the calls are easy: scripts, FAQs, and snacks will be provided.

Questions about your donation history?

The Ralston Liaison can look up your past donations in the database if you aren't sure what you've given this fiscal or calendar year. If you have questions about your monthly credit card donations, please read the Credit Card Giving FAQ's on the foundation website: <http://www.schoolforce.org/donate/credit-card-faqs>

Watch your e-mail

The School Funding Forum #2 – *Budget Analysis and Input* – originally scheduled for November 17th is being rescheduled. This is a chance to hear about how budget decisions are made, voice your opinion about various funding priorities and ask questions. The October Forums were extremely informative with some excellent discussion. If you couldn't attend the last forum, please try to attend this one to educate yourself and voice your opinion. **Watch your e-mail for the new date for this important event.**

Questions? Please contact: Janet Leist, Ralston School-Force Liaison, at theleists@mindspring.com

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Sandwiches/ Bagels</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Weightlifting	3 <i>Burger/Wrap/ /Salad/CA rolls</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Animation I Election Day	4 Minimum Day Book Fair begins	5 <i>Burritos</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Animation II Koffee with Kollman 8:30 am, Library	6 <i>Pizza</i> Clubs: ▪ Games	7
8	9 <i>Sandwiches/ Bagels</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Weightlifting	10 <i>Burger/Wrap/ /Salad/CA rolls</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Animation I	11 NO School Veteran's Day	12 <i>Tacos</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Animation II Book Fair ends PTA Meeting 7:00 pm, Library	13 <i>Pizza</i> Clubs: ▪ Games CASINO ROYALE	14
15	16 <i>Sandwiches/ Bagels</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Weightlifting	17 <i>Burger/Wrap/ /Salad/CA rolls</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Animation I OSF Actors visit Carlmont Performing Arts Center, 7:00 pm	18 Minimum Day School-Force Annual Giving Campaign: ANSWER THE CALL	19 <i>Burritos</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Animation II SSC Meeting 3:03, Room 7	20 <i>Pizza</i> Clubs: ▪ Games 1st Trimester Ends	21
22	23 <i>Sandwiches/ Bagels</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Weightlifting	24 <i>Burger/Wrap/ /Salad/CA rolls</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework ▪ Animation I Ramtracks Deadline	25 Minimum Day	26 NO School Thanksgiving	27 NO School	28
29	30 <i>Sandwiches/ Bagels</i> Clubs: ▪ Homework	<p>See <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> at the Carlmont Performing Arts Center, Nov. 12th, 13th, and 14th at 7:00 pm, and Nov. 15th at 2:00 pm</p> <p>LOOKING AHEAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Carlmont Winter concerts Dec. 1st & 2nd, 7 p.m. – “Fire and Ice,” Carlmont Choirs Concert, Dec. 3rd & 4th, 7 p.m. – Ralston Winter concerts Dec. 15th and 16th, 7:00 p.m. 				



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