

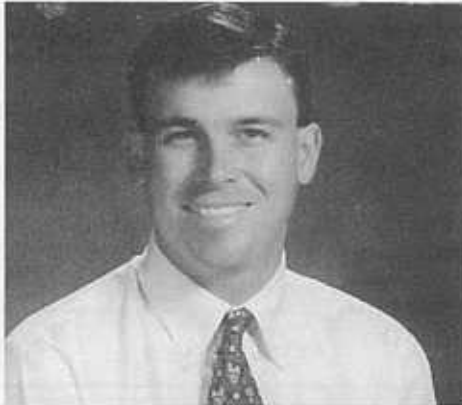


Panther POSTSCRIPTS



PUBLISHED BY THE BURLINGAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FALL/WINTER 2007



Principal's Letter Matt Biggar

We have begun another year at Burlingame High School and are off to a positive and productive start. It is an honor to be Principal at Burlingame High School where our parental and community support is so exceptional. Our Alumni Association has been an important group for many years now at BHS. I thank each of you for your continued support for your alma mater.

I am starting my sixth and final year as Principal at Burlingame High School. My role will be changing over the course of this school year. In January I will take on the role of Interim Associate Superintendent for Instruction for our school district. The Board will determine the BHS Principal selection process for the 2008-09 school year, sometime in Spring 2008. Assistant Principal, Brent Daniels, will serve as Administrator in Charge when I am at the district office. He is well prepared to take on this extra responsibility after serving four years as Assistant Principal for Student Services. Brent moved into the role of Assistant Principal for Instructional Services this past summer.

I am pleased to welcome two new members to the BHS administrative team this year: Suzanne Woolfolk and Rick Cooke. Suzanne will be our Assistant Principal for Student Services. She worked at Hillsdale High School as a Spanish Teacher, ELD Teacher and Yearbook

Advisor. Most recently, she was the House Leader of one of the three smaller learning communities at Hillsdale High School. Rick is our new Dean of Students. He taught English and served as Athletic Director at Capuchino High School for the past four years and previously taught in San Diego for six years. Our new administrative team worked hard this summer preparing for the school year and is dedicated to serving the students, staff and parents of Burlingame High School.

Our theme for the school year for our students is *Making the Right Choice*. This fits with one of our three long-term school goals. This goal is to promote a positive academic identity, defined as having a genuine commitment to learning, good mental and physical health and a strong sense of personal values, among all of our students. To address having a sense of personal values and to guide students towards *Making the Right Choice*, students, parents and staff signed the new BHS Honor Code during the second week of school. We also believe that our students need strategies and support to make the choice to be consistently honest in their academic work, act with integrity and develop a strong sense of ethics. Therefore, we remain involved in the Stanford- Stressed Out Students Project in which we are exploring a number of ways to address student stress in a rigorous academic environment. On September 26th, we held *Making the Right Choice Day* at our school. Denise Clark Pope, Stanford University Lecturer and Stressed Out Students Project Founder, spoke to our staff, students, leadership groups and parents. We hope the insights she shared with us will help our students, with parent and staff support, learn more about how to effectively manage stress and make the right choice.

As most of you know, some potentially toxic chemicals were found in campus soil during the modernization process requiring the front lawn and back field to be fenced off. This led to a prolonged clean up process, but progress is now being made. Lead and PCB clean up was completed around our main school building this summer. The arsenic clean up on our front

lawn and back field is the next project. Our district has secured the state funds. As I write, the final plan is awaiting approval from the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control. Hopefully, this work will commence by the middle of the fall semester and be complete by January 2008. The timeline, of course, may change. As a result of the arsenic cleanup, we will gain a new synthetic athletic field at the back field location. We will be working carefully with the contractor to monitor this work. Areas will be appropriately fenced and contained as the work progresses and experts in the removal of toxic substances will monitor the work. We can't wait to have the chain link fence removed from our front lawn and the new athletic field in back. The rest of our campus is in beautiful shape with the new buildings and courtyards. There will be further improvements over the next five years when we renovate our theater, build a technology arts building and perform other improvements made possible by voter approved Measure M.

In late August, we received our API (Academic Performance Index) from the state. We were pleased to see our score grow from a 2006 base score of 796 to a 2007 growth score of 813. All schools strive to be at or above 800. What does this mean? The API is based on student performance on the High School Exit Exam and STAR tests that students take in the spring each year. The measure largely reflects student performance on Math and English exams, and also includes Science and Social Science exams. The API, by no means, measures all that a school does but it does reflect the quality of teaching and learning related to the state standards we are expected to teach. Our overall 17-point gain demonstrates the hard work of our staff and students.

Thanks again for your continued support of BHS. Go Panthers!

