



# Mare Island Technology Academy Newsletter

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January/February 2010

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## Upcoming Events

- 2/2 Open House visitation-new families 9:30 – 11:00 am
- 2/2 CAHSEE Testing for 10<sup>th</sup> graders-English
- 2/3 CAHSEE Testing for 10<sup>th</sup> graders-Math
- 2/4 Open House visitation-new families 9:30 – 11:00 am
- 2/4 PTN General meeting 6:00 pm
- 2/5 Breakfast Chat with the Directors 7:30 – 8:30 am
- 2/7 Sunday Open House-new families 10:00 – Noon
- 2/9 Open House visitation-new families 9:30 – 11:00 am
- 2/9 Board meeting 5:30 pm
- 2/11 Open House visitation - new families 9:30 – 11:00 am
- 2/15 Holiday
- 2/17 Science Fair 6:30 pm
- 2/19 End of PR 4 – Minimum Day
- 2/22 ELAC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 2/26 Re-enrollment deadline-returning students 4:30 pm

*Happy New Year from all of us at MIT!*

## Looking Ahead at Upcoming Calendar Events

For planning purposes, we have included important dates as far ahead as possible for your information. In this newsletter you will find scheduled dates for minimum days, PTN and ELAC meetings, Breakfast Chats, Parent Universities and other important events. Please check our Public Calendar at <http://www.mitacademy.org/calendar> for the latest information as events are subject to change.

### Public Calendar

MIT's public calendar at [www.mitacademy.org/calendar](http://www.mitacademy.org/calendar) is your best source for activities and events at school. We now update the calendar on a weekly basis to ensure that parents and students have accurate information. You may also access the public calendar on our home page [www.mitacademy.org](http://www.mitacademy.org) by clicking on the Quick Links "Public Calendar" at the top of the page.

**MIT Academy Website**  
[www.mitacademy.org](http://www.mitacademy.org)

**PowerSchool**

[ps.mitacademy.org](http://ps.mitacademy.org)

**E-mail**

[office@mitacademy.org](mailto:office@mitacademy.org)

**Is this Newsletter  
helpful?**

We welcome your feedback at  
[office@mitacademy.org](mailto:office@mitacademy.org)

## **Future Parent Events and Meetings**

**PTN meetings:** February 4, March 4, May 6

**ELAC meetings:** February 22, March 22, April 26

**Breakfast Chats with the Directors:** February 5, March 5, April 9

**Parent University:** March 11, May 20



## **Important Notice Concerning Re-enrollment for the 2010-2011 School Year**

This is an important reminder to parents and guardians of our annual requirement that MIT must have confirmation of your plans to re-enroll your student(s) for the next school year. Please note that this is an entirely separate process from the one used for Prop 39.

It is important to act now. Log onto the Parent Portal @ <http://ps.mitacademy.org>, select the "Email Communication" icon, and complete your re-enrollment there, or return the re-enrollment form (attached) to the main office. Students cannot be re-enrolled without confirmation of re-enrollment. In addition, without this confirmation, siblings cannot be guaranteed enrollment at MIT for 2010-11. Please submit your plans electronically or return the form by no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010**.



## **Recruiting Students for 2010-11**

The recruiting season for all schools in the area is upon us. We are aggressively advertising, holding open house visitations during the week and on the weekends to give potential new families a chance to see MIT "in action." We know the "buzz" about MIT continues to be excellent and new families are excited about joining our community. Please feel free to share this information with a friend or neighbor who might be looking for an exciting educational alternative for their student(s). The application

## **Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS)**

The creation and maintenance of a safe school environment is an issue of national concern. Recent events that have occurred in and near schools have made it clear that we must be prepared to respond to multiple hazards. Natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, and tornadoes, can strike a community with little or no warning. School shootings, threatened or actual, are extremely rare, but are traumatizing when they do occur. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita reinforce the need for schools and communities to plan for natural crises and emergencies, as well as other catastrophic events. While studies show that schools are the safest places for children to be during the morning and afternoon hours, schools and communities must take steps to continually review and enhance their level of preparedness for potential emergencies.

In response to this need, MIT wrote a federal grant and was a successful recipient of funding to train staff, parents and students. The first scheduled trainings are Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) trainings and will occur as indicated below. The trainings are open to all parents/guardians who are interested. A full CERT training is 16 hours. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please call the Main Office to sign up. There are four opportunities to receive free CERT certification and receive an emergency preparedness kit.

- February 25-26, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. (8) hours each day. Lunch is provided.
- March 22-25, 8:00 am to noon, (4) hours per day
- March 29- April 1, 8:00 am to noon, (4) hours per day
- April 8-9, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. (8) hours each day. Lunch is provided.

## **Phone Numbers**

Please remember to let us know about changes to your address, telephone numbers or anything related to information that must be updated on the student emergency card. We appreciate your attention to this important detail. As a reminder, our Office phone number is (707) 552-6482. Fax: (707) 552-0288.

## **Athletics for High School Students**

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) has approved MIT's application to allow our high school students to participate in athletics with the teams from the three Vallejo high schools – Bethel, Hogan and Vallejo. Based on the high school attendance area in which an MIT student lives, s/he will be able to try out for a sport or cheerleading team beginning with the spring sports season in March. More information will be shared with students about this new opportunity.

## **Preferred Method of Communication**

We are interested in knowing your preferred mode of communication from the school. Do you prefer the newsletter and other written materials e-mailed or sent hard copy by traditional mail? We also need to know whether you prefer to have information from the school in English or Spanish. Our monthly newsletter, for example, is roughly \$7500.00 per year to send. This does not include the many other mailings we send such as progress reports, Academic Alerts, meeting reminders, graduation information, etc.

We continue to receive less and less funding from the State of California. If we are able to do the majority of our communication electronically in the future, we will be able to save much needed funds for day to day materials and supplies that are in very short supply. Please respond to us by using the Power School Parent Portal, e-mail communication icon. Here you may specify your e-mail or regular mail preference as well as your preference for English or Spanish. We have computers in the main office for those who do not have computers or internet at home.

## **Volunteer Hours**

Thank you for your support and the dedication you give to MIT staff and students. We are providing more opportunities for families to meet their commitment for volunteer hours. Please call Rosa Pineda if you are interested in one or more of the ongoing opportunities listed below.

- ✦ Lunch Supervision (11:10 am -12:30 pm)
- ✦ Yard Supervision (7:45-8:10 am and 3:30-3:45 pm)
- ✦ Saturday Work Party (8:00 am -1:00 pm)
- ✦ Teacher assistant in the classroom
- ✦ Office assistant (copying, collating, weekly and monthly mailings, classroom deliveries)
- ✦ PTN and ELAC meetings, Breakfast Chats with the Directors
- ✦ Parent University
- ✦ Donations for senior store such as cases of water, ink pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, notebook paper, etc.
- ✦ Newsletter editor
- ✦ Professional facilities repair work (certified plumbers, electricians, carpenters)
- ✦ Professional(s) to conduct vision and hearing screening
- ✦ Health educator able to do classroom presentations

Thank you parent volunteers for all you do.

## **One Call Now (OCN)**

Starting this month we will be using our One Call Now (OCN) phone system to alert parents about upcoming events on a weekly basis. Previously taped calls will be made home each Sunday in the early evening. The announcements will be brief alerts about the events in the upcoming week, and will direct parents and students to our website where more information can be found. We hope that this system will prove to be a more reliable means of communication for families.

## **Next Minimum Day Friday, February 19**

Friday, February 19 is a minimum day for students and is also the final day of progress reporting period 4. Student dismissal is 1:35 pm. The afternoon will be scheduled for teacher collaboration and planning. For your planning purposes, April 23 is the final minimum day of the year

## **Touro University Sunday Speakers Series**

On February 28, 2010 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm, Dr. Tyrone Howard, Associate Professor at the UCLA Graduate School of Education, will be doing a presentation for parents and educators at Touro University. The topic of this presentation is: *Closing the Achievement Gap Facing African American and Other Culturally Diverse Students*. Registration is free. Reservations are requested. To RSVP contact Sharon Kutasy at [Sharon.kutasy@tu.edu](mailto:Sharon.kutasy@tu.edu)

