

# The Drake Direct

A newsletter from the administrative, counseling and teaching staff at Sir Francis Drake High School



Happy New Year 2016

## Drake High School

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### Counseling Information:

- Kyle Kassebaum: 415-458-3442
- Katie Paulsen: 415-458-3435
- Sheila Souder: 415-458-3436
- Molly Yasuda: 415-458-3439

### Assistant Principals: 415-458-3414

- **David Rice:** Grade 9/10-ROCK & Galileo Grade 11/12- Students A-J
- **Chad Stuart:** Grade 9/10- TREK & Mobius Grade 11/12-Students K-Z

### Drake High Online:

- tamdistrict.org/drake
- Facebook: drakehighschool
- Twitter:@drakehighschool

## Making a Difference for our Students

Liz Seabury, Principal

When we are looking at schooling in Marin, one major difference is our fundraising organizations at each school or district. I first learned about these organizations while driving up Sir Francis Drake Blvd, as each foundation claims their neighborhoods with colorful stickers and banners. At first, I did not understand SPARK! or KiK or YES! but now I know.....these organizations provide for an educational experience we are all so proud of here in Marin. At Drake, we have our Drake Fund. In order to understand the amazing services we offer at Drake, it is essential to know the role our Drake Fund plays in supporting our school.

The Drake Fund is a parent run organization who's mission it is to support the Drake community. It is an umbrella organization fundraising for all aspects of our school. Funds are raised and appropriated to our academic programs through a grant process open to all teachers, our athletics programs through the athletic committee and a variety of community events both for our staff and for our parent community.

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## Drake Talks: A Community Conversation

We invite our parents and community to join us for a conversation about race, inclusion and our community. Our goal is to develop understanding and ideas around building a more inclusive community for all students. See page 2 for details.

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January 13, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center

## Making a difference for all students

The Drake Fund grant appropriations is the most direct route for donations to be spent on students. Each spring our Drake teaches complete grants that are reviewed and funded, either fully or partially, by the money raised by the Drake Fund. Last year our grant monies paid for \$27,000 for our music program for guest artists. This grant pays for our choir coach, Amanda Addleman, and several other guest artist we bring in to enrich and broaden our music education. The grants also paid for a variety of math and science curriculum and instruction projects including: fifteen laptops for a mobile laptop cart for science, physiology curriculum models, graphing calculators, circle

compass classroom set for geometry and a new lab project for our next generation science standards. These are all items we could not have afforded from our general fund. The Drake Fund also recognizes our need to support students who may need additional supports at school and provided funding for students to attend our Pathways program through San Andreas and a food assistance program we run through our Assistant Principals office for students in need. The Drake Fund also works to support our academic programs and supports our teams with supplemental items and for our Athletic Trainer.

Finally, we support a variety of parent education programs developed jointly between our

Drake Parent Club and the Ross Valley Healthy Community Collaborative. This fall we held a number of informative speaker and movie events. The Drake Parent Club is also responsible for our “Be the Influence” program where we invite parents to become active members and help create a safe community for our teens.

Please review this amazing organization on our website- <http://www.tamdistrict.org/domain/300>

If you have contributed this year- thank you!! If you have not, please consider donating. We THANK YOU for all you are doing for our students through these donations. THANK YOU to our Drake Fund!

## A Community Conversation: Inviting all to discuss race, equity and inclusion.

Liz Seabury, Principal



One important goal of schools is to constantly reflect on how they meet the needs of all their students. While data is one important indicator of student success, listening to the student’s voices is another equally important source to use in this reflection. This fall, a few incidents occurred which allowed our students of color to share their experiences at Drake. Hearing these voices and reviewing our achievement data has provided us the incentive to dig deeper into the issue of race, equity and inclusion at our school.

As a staff, we consider our populations of students and their achievement in every decision we make. Our new five-year plan is focused on three areas that are all focused on providing better instruction, access, opportunity and development of school practices that meet the needs of ALL our students. We are reviewing our current AP classes and admissions, our tutorial program, our school-wide intervention classes, our curriculum in all departments, the needs of our community regarding social and emotional health and wellness of our students, the development of restorative practices as a school and in classrooms and an exploration into the AVID program to provide a more equitable and inclusive school-wide program. This is our work for our students. We need to hear what ideas our community has for improvement.

Inviting our community to come and talk about their perceptions of race, equity and inclusion is another step in this journey. To this end, we ask that you come and talk, listen, learn and share about this complex, important and difficult topic. **Join us on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in our student center.** This will be a facilitated conversation for us to learn and grow as a school and community. All are welcome.

## Drake Calendar of Events for January/February

Date	Event	Notes
1/6/16	First Day of Spring Semester	"Monday" schedule
1/13/16	Drake Talks: Conversation about Inclusion	6:30pm in Student Center
1/15/16	Student presentations on 11/12 Academies	During Tutorial for all 10 <sup>th</sup> graders
1/18/16	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	No school.
1/20/16	Drake Leadership Council	4:15pm in room 106
1/21-22	Course Workshops and Senior Class Meetings	Student workshops of course offerings for 2016-17- during the school day
1/25/16	Drake Fund Board Meeting	7:15pm in the main office
1/28/16	Open House	6:30pm programs available in the main hall
1/29/16	Winter Formal	8:00pm at the Presidio
2/3/16	Minimum Day-Teacher Workshops	School release at 12:45pm

### The Drake Wellness Plan- An Update for Winter

David Rice, Assistant Principal and Jessica Colvin, TUHSD Wellness Director

There is a strong nation-wide movement to incorporate more overt social and emotional wellness into school structures and their curriculum. While Drake has always considered a student's social/emotional wellbeing to be at the forefront of learning, the TUHSD's focus on wellness has provided us the opportunity to revisit our work and assess our own structures, services and curriculum.

Our work with the Drake Wellness Design Team has provided us the opportunity to begin the complex process of assessing the wellness needs of the Drake community and then to develop and support the implementation of programming to meet those needs. Our team includes students, staff, parents, counselors and administrators.

The DWDT purpose statement is to assess the wellness of the Drake community, and then to develop and support the implementation of programming to meet those needs. Our work around wellness is focused on direct student services and prevention/education in the following areas: Emotional, Physical, Reproductive health and Substance use/abuse.

We are now in the planning and implementation stages of our needs assessment in which we hope to gain valuable information to help us identify the health and wellness needs of our community. We are working on an online survey for students, staff and parents to be administered in January 2016. We are also planning focus groups and key informant interviews for spring 2016. In addition, members of our DWDT will be visiting Wellness and School Based Health Centers in the Bay area to learn more about the various models that exist to expand student support services on campus.

We hope that you will all participate in our needs assessment by completing the survey or by participating in one of our focus groups or interviews. Your input will help us prioritize direct services as well as prevention and education efforts that are most needed in our community.

We are fortunate to be building upon a legacy of developing the whole student here at Drake. To this end, we have an exceptional counseling department and mental support team (BACR) to build with in our work. If you have questions or are interested in participating in a focus group, please contact David Rice, Drake Assistant Principal, at [drice@tamdistrict.org](mailto:drice@tamdistrict.org), or Jessica Colvin, Wellness Director at [jcolvin@tamdistrict.org](mailto:jcolvin@tamdistrict.org). For information about TUHSD Wellness go to [www.tamdistrict.org/wellness](http://www.tamdistrict.org/wellness).

## Getting Ready for 2016-2017: Course Workshops and Open House

*Jolie Jacobs, Assistant to the Principal*

The scheduling process will begin for the 2016-17 school year in January. Counselors will meet with students and send home important information regarding course selection. Our goal of scheduling is for students and families to have the most information possible to help them make good choices for the following year. We offer three major events to help our students prepare: our Academy Workshops, our Course Workshops and our Open House.

On Friday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, we ask all sophomores to attend our workshops featuring both our **11/12 Academies. SEA-DISC and ComAcad** both present their program information for our sophomores to learn about these amazing offerings. More information? Please look at their websites under our academics tab on the homepage

January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our fourth annual **Course Workshops (CW)**. These workshops will be teacher led to give students a picture of what the course is about; major units, projects, expectations, etc. Teachers may offer a workshop on any class they teach or may teach next year—elective courses, graduation requirements, AP Courses, programs and academies all may have a workshop. It is a great way for staff, students and families to get excited about all that makes Drake fantastic!

In January we will send an email home to families including the schedule of all course/academy workshops that will be offered. Our hope is that you will review it as a family and that each student will attend all five workshops. In the email there will be a student schedule to print out and complete; this will be the student's hall pass during the workshops. Please look for the CW email in January and join us in our excitement for the upcoming year.

Our **Open House** has been moved to January 28<sup>th</sup> for our students and parents to visit the rooms of those classes they are interested for the following year. Our doors open at 6:30pm. Pick up a program and begin learning all about Drake.

### Parking Lot and Crosswalk Safety

When something is important, we need to revisit it again and again. We believe that student safety is this important. Developing a safe parking lot and a safe pedestrian culture is this important. We are asking us all to stop using cell phones in our parking lots and all crosswalks to keep us alert to cars.

We are working to make our parking lots safer and one step we are taking is to stop the use of cell phones while in our parking lots. This pertains to **drivers AND pedestrians**. The rate of parking lot injury has increased and the design of our front lot and Saunders makes all cell phone use dangerous.

### Turf Field Replacement Plan

We are in the process of determining the replacement of our synthetic football field. While this work was scheduled to take place in June 2016, our fields can last another year before we need to replace it. We decided to wait this year due to the report from the EPA about the safety of synthetic fields on our health. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.tamdistrict.org/Page/9548>

### Drake Basketball: A New Look

Every year a team starts fresh and looks forward to the season with excitement. This year, our basketball program gives a warm welcome to Brett Mitchell, our new boys varsity coach. Mitchell, a San Ramon native, played college hoops at Westmont in Santa Barbara. He has coached at the college and prep level, including stints with Whitworth College, Dominican University, College of Marin and Branson. Brett is bringing with him a passion and love for the game along with a philosophy rooted in helping athletes reach their maximum potential. Brett is currently a special education teacher at San Rafael High School He has a student first mentality and trusts the process of teamwork, communication and respect in what it takes to be successful. We are excited to have Coach Mitchell continue to develop and cultivate our students in building excellence on and off the court. A big, warm DRAKE welcome to Brett Mitchell and best of luck this year with our PIRATES!!