



THE MAGIC OF REDWOOD DRAMA

Redwood High School

Welcome Back Newsletter

AUGUST 2014

Welcome Back!

by David Sondheim

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. We are excited to see you in a couple of days but wanted to welcome you back with a number of information items of importance. See the items below to get up to date on all our latest happenings. New staff, new courses, slight changes to our bell schedule and summer facilities improvements are all good news for Redwood!

As we begin the new school year, I want to encourage everyone to find ways to get involved with activities that match your individual interests. For students, find that club, activity, sport, volunteer opportunity and pursue your areas of interest. While we hope you love your classes, it's important to spend time doing what you love that might not be part of your class schedule. Join a club, start a club, get involved and try something new. Last year's wildly successful Lip-Dub was a student-run project. You can do something as exciting if you get creative and put the time in to make your ideas come to life.

For parents, please try to stay involved in your students' learning and school. As students become more independent in high school, this is not always easy. Discussing

schoolwork, current events and staying connected with your students outside interests are important. Being receptive when your student decides it's time to open up is also critical. As those moments of sharing can become less frequent as students get older, being receptive when the opportunities arise is important in the moment and increases the likelihood that your student continues to share what's important to her or him.

Additionally, many parents believe they can't be involved with the high school as they were in elementary and middle school. If you have the time, we have many ways to support Redwood including volunteering (the PTSA coordinates the bulk of our volunteer needs), attending student games, performances and activities and donating to our Redwood Foundation. While you may want to give your student some space as s/he goes through high school to provide the room for independence to develop, there are still many ways to be an active Giant.

I look forward to seeing you all on campus this year and I hope it's a great year for your student and your family.



RHS Heart of Marin Awardees

Jackson Cooney, Alex Dubin, Duncan McCrae, Julia Cherner and Carly Van Liere.

Bell Schedule Change

2014-15 brings a slight change to our bell schedule. The order of the class periods on block days has been adjusted so the sequence of periods is the same no matter which day the periods occur. This will be a very positive change for classes with significant setup and breakdown needs such as science and art. Below is our new block day schedule for Wednesday and Thursday. Monday, Tuesday and Friday schedules have not changed. The Redwood bell schedules can also be seen on the Redwood website under Shortcuts and Information.



RHS Art Student Work

Wednesday (Block Schedule) 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th Periods

0 Period	7:05	-	7:55
4th Period	8:00	-	9:30
Break	9:30	-	9:40
5th Period	9:45	-	11:15
Lunch	11:15	-	11:50
6th Period	11:55	-	1:25
Break	1:25	-	1:35
7th Period	1:40	-	3:10

Thursday (Block Schedule) 1st, 2nd & 3rd Periods

0 Period	7:05	-	7:55
1st Period	8:00	-	9:30
SMART Period	9:35	-	10:20
Break	10:20	-	10:30
2nd Period	10:35	-	12:05
Lunch	12:05	-	12:50
3rd Period	12:55	-	2:25
Faculty Meeting	2:35	-	3:30

Please note the beginning and end times of school have not changed for any day of the week.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

First Week of School Special Schedule – See the Redwood website for the Week 1 Schedule

Back to School Night is Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6:00 pm in the Large Gym

No School for students on our first staff development day - Monday, Sept. 15.

Redwood Foundation Kick-Off Event
Tuesday 9/23 -6:30 pm at Mini of Marin

Welcome to our New Staff!



We are excited to introduce a number of new staff members who will join our fantastic team (pictured above) this year. As you probably know, Redwood is in a growth phase and these new staff members mean our students will continue to receive the excellent education our community has

come to expect even as we grow in the next several years. Please welcome our new staff into the Redwood community. We are a very selective employer and we are excited to have our new staff join our growing team.

Teachers/Counselors

- Candace Gulden - Counselor
- Ian Scott - Counselor
- Kendall Pope - English
- Nicole Mortham - Fine Arts
- Daniel Martin – Math
- Byron Nelson - PE
- Marta DiDomizio – Science
- Amy Mastromonaco - Science
- Marissa Peck - Science
- David Minhondo - Social Studies
- Nick Butkevich - Social Studies
- Beth de Carion - Special Ed

Administrators

- Larry Pratt – Assistant Principal
- Meredith Hanrahan - Psychologist
- Jessica Colvin – Wellness Director

OUR BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS



Redwood Sign

Thanks to the Redwood PTSA for ongoing campus improvement including the beautiful Redwood sign and bulb plantings on Doherty Drive.



Facilities Updates

It has been a busy summer for our facilities and information technology crews who use the summer to make needed improvements while we are all away. Thanks so much to Tony Catrino, Rose Chavira and their teams for all the work they accomplished for our students.

College and Career Center

Thanks to the Redwood Foundation, the College and Career Center is transforming into a modern facility with new furniture and a full set of laptop computers to assist students in the variety of activities that occur in the center including research, college and career presentations, application assistance and individual/group college/career counseling sessions.

Information Technology

This summer we received a major upgrade to our student information system, ESchool Plus, as well as a major upgrade to our network infrastructure including new cabling and network hardware that should allow us see improved performance in our network and Internet access.

Around Campus

Collaboration between the Tam District and the Redwood Foundation allowed the turfed Ghilotti Field to be successfully installed and used last spring. Finishing touches are now being added including athlete seating and scoreboard. We hope to add audience seating and a ball wall in the near future. Parking blocks have been installed in the East Parking Lot to increase safety and prevent drivers from driving outside the marked lanes of traffic.

Website Upgrade

A Giant thank you to the Redwood Foundation for funding the upgrade of the Redwood website (www.redwood.org) over the summer. While you may notice some changes on your computer, the biggest improvement is the appearance and usability of the website from your smart phone or tablet. A big thanks to Skip Lovelady for his hard work making sure the upgrade went smoothly.



Ghilotti Field Before

In need of renovation, Spring 2013



Ghilotti Field After

After returfing, Spring 2014. Lacrosse, soccer and football players are all grateful for the increased field space and the community is grateful for more year-round field space that is also water-conserving.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Interested in helping the PTSA campus improvement efforts? See [PTSA](#) under Parents on the Redwood website.

Interested in helping the Redwood Foundation inspire excellence in Academics, Arts and Athletics? See [Redwood Foundation](#) under Parents on the Redwood website.

