

The Academy at Black Mountain Middle School



We the students, parents, teachers and administration of THE ACADEMY will develop the academic, intellectual and character skills of all our students so that they may be prepared to succeed in high school, college and the world beyond.

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Message from Principal David Hall

August summer session went well. Geometry and tutorials added this year.

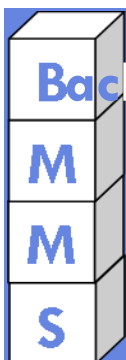
This summer marked the first time we held our summer session in August just before the start of our traditional school year. There were a few bumps with this move, but our staff and those parents I spoke with felt this was a better way of making our summer session part of an extended school year. Students were able to continue their work into the start of our traditional year and teachers felt a better continuity with the yearlong curriculum. We plan to schedule our extended year in August of next year for those of you who have to set vacation dates this far in advance. I wanted to thank those parents who ran our snack stand and Fruti® Bar sales over the summer. These fundraisers not only made money but also helped build a sense of community within our Academy program. These parents are a great example of supporting our Academy through their volunteer hours and creative ideas.

The beginning of our school year went smoothly this year. Much of that credit also belongs to the volunteers who helped with registration, in our library, and PE classes selling clothes and locks. Many of these volunteers were Academy parents. I greatly appreciate those parents whose volunteer efforts benefit all of Black Mountain, not just our Academy. Your efforts are the reason we continue to be a great school.

I wanted to update everyone on what your additional donation dollars have allowed us to do. This year we have added additional classes for a Raider Time for Academy Geometry students taught by Joanne Hudson, one of our math teachers. The other class is a tutorial offered during 9th period. Students will rotate through this tutorial as needed and recommended by their teachers. They will be pulled from their PE classes 9th period no more than once a week so they can meet the minimum number of instructional minutes for PE. This tutorial will offer additional help for students who need intervention or instruction in specific academic classes. Thanks to your donations we are able to fund these classes to better meet the needs of our Academy students.

We are off to a great start and look forward to another tremendous year for our Academy program.

Thanks,
 David Hall



Back to School Night

Wednesday, Sept. 9 · 6:00-7:30 pm

An adult representative of every Academy student is requested to attend this MANDATORY EVENT.

After meeting in the gymnasium, visit your student's classroom, meet the teaching staff, find out valuable information about course curriculum, classroom-specific topics and your student's daily schedule.

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17 Minute Surge Times Nine

VIA volunteers in action

Summer session run like a military operation

Despite a short summer session of 10 days, we ran a snack bar for nine, with the summer celebration providing food for the students on the last day. The snack bar fulfills the purpose for kids to purchase some food during morning recess time that lasted a mere 17 minutes. It is also a fund raiser for the Academy.



They also serve who only stand and wait... Some of the many volunteers waiting for the surge of customers at this year's summer snack bar.

I would like to give a "Shout Out" to our customers and parents for their support in purchasing snack items and drinks. The kids were a lot of fun and very polite. We couldn't have had a better crowd of customers.

I would also like to thank the following volunteers who came to help setup, sell and clean: Cecilia Ayala, Rick Bandrup, Susan Bandrup, Kira Brover, Suikée Chu, Paula Cotton, Yennie Garnica, Michelle Hobbs, Annette Horton, Kendra Jones, Lisa Kadel, Jennifer Kennedy, Joanne Lichtenberg, Gabriela Mojica, Caryn and Crystyn Morey, Homeira Noori, Tina Oestereicher, Heather Roberts, Lisa Robertson, Norine Siglar, Kelly Smith and Delia Wang.



...They didn't have to wait long before a surge of students arrived to buy. Then, 17 minutes later, whoosh they were back in class and it was all over for another day.

Our volunteers went grocery shopping, let us borrow coolers for ice, a canopy for shade and money boxes for "Cash Registers". They also made terrific posters letting all the kids know what was available. It was a pleasure to work with all of them. Last but not least, I wish to mention my Co-Chair Todd Robertson, or as we affectionately called him, Mr. July. He was a huge help dealing with our daily task of getting ice from the generous restaurants who donated to us. (Thank you to Carl's Jr®, Jack in the Box®, and McDonalds®). Also I appreciated his assistance with the daily snack bar duties and accounting. And an extra "Thank You" goes to Mr. Dennis Moore for putting up with us.☺ Everyone worked well together to make this year such a success.

Sincerely, Ruth Jacobson, 2011 Academy Snack Bar Chair

Volunteer Corner

VIA volunteers in action

Welcome to all new parent volunteers and welcome back to our seasoned parent volunteers. THANK YOU to everyone who responded so quickly to the needs of the End of Summer Picnic, Registration, and PE Clothes distribution. Our volunteers certainly hit the ground running and are making visible and highly appreciated contributions to the BMMS community.

Academy Volunteer of the Month For our first ever Academy Volunteer of the Month, we are pleased to honor David Brooks! David is our website wizard and thanks to his generosity in time and talent, we are fortunate to have an Online Volunteer Log.

David has deftly created a user-friendly, globally accessible replacement to the big white binder. This makes it so much easier to record volunteer hours, especially for those who volunteer for off-campus or after hours activities like Science Olympiad, fieldtrips, and supply purchasing.

David is also our Academy webpage master. He keeps our webpage an up-to-date and a reliable line of communication. Mr. Moore said, "I can always count on David to update the Academy website within minutes of my request." David is also very responsive to the "Request Help" button.

The community of volunteers THANKS YOU in a big way David, our first ever Academy Volunteer of the Month!

To start off the rest of the school year, here are just a few reminders of general volunteer guidelines:

- All volunteers must obtain TB and Megan's Law clearance before participating in any volunteer activity. If you are new to the school but

have obtained these clearances at another PUSD school, please submit a Volunteer Transfer Request form. The district prefers that you submit the transfer form at the school of your ORIGINAL clearance. If you have never received these clearances in PUSD before, please request volunteer clearance information from the BMMS office.

- Please wear your badge when you come on campus to volunteer. To obtain a volunteer badge, please contact the BMMS office for available picture times.
- All on-campus and field trip volunteers, please stop and sign-into the Volunteer Log in the office FIRST before reporting to your volunteer post. The office log is used for safety as well as PTSA accounting purposes and must be used in addition to logging your time on the Academy Online Volunteer Log.
- The online Academy Volunteer Log is used to track a family's fulfillment of the 20 hour per student commitment we all made on our Commitment forms. These hours can be fulfilled by any family member including parents and grandparents. Sometimes there are opportunities that can be fulfilled by high-school aged older siblings; check in with the event coordinator. Volunteer time is defined as any volunteer time that is used in service to the Academy, BMMS, or any of its programs whether on or off-campus, for example Science Olympiad; PTSA events; time spent picking up supplies for events/programs and prepping equipment/materials at home. Time spent driving in carpools is not considered volunteer time.
- Please log your hours in a timely manner to ensure accuracy.

Thank you all volunteers for what's shaping out to be another great year at the Academy.

Christine Pham, VP, Academy Volunteers · pham.christine@yahoo.com

Doing the Math

Whole is greater than the sum of its parts when it comes to summer picnic

Numeracy acumen is a prerequisite when it comes to organizing the summer picnic for nearly 300 very active and hungry Academy students. Lori Romero should know. She has just drawn a line under her fourth very successful annual event with the help of numerous volunteers.

It may take a village to raise a kid, but Lori rounded up over 50 helpers, scheduled the assembly of sixteen games and the provision of pizzas, cookies and drinks to enable the community that is BMMS Academy to celebrate the end of the two-week summer session on August 19.

As usual, it was a warm sunny day when parents and friends descended on the upper field at 9:30 am with canopies, folding tables and chairs, ice-filled coolers, loads of water balloons and such disparate items as cans of whipped cream, cans of marking paint, hammers, gunny sacks and rope; not to put on the latest version of the Highland Games but to pair-up and arrange 16 wet and wild fun games around the perimeter. Space was left on one side for food and drinks and a board set up to show raffle prizes and, within an hour, everything was ready! When the students arrived after an abbreviated morning session, *voilà!* the music started, personal pan pizzas were delivered and the fun began.



The top field was teeming with very active students who had fun, games and a delicious snack at this year's summer picnic.

(Image courtesy of Norma Harrington)

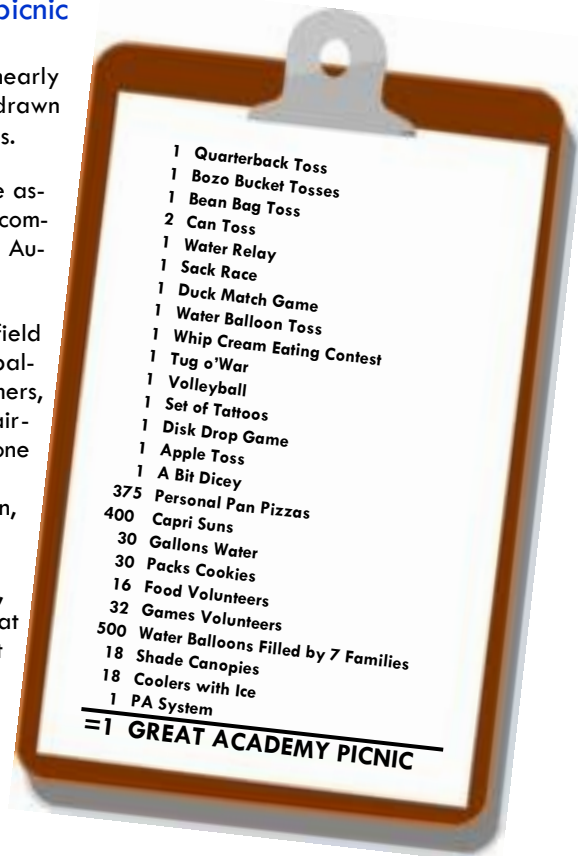
All games were well subscribed. After all, Lori and her team have come to know what the kids enjoy. There were long queues at most games, rules were set aside when it came to the number of players on each team of volleyball and tug o' war, water balloons found there way across the field from the Balloon Toss and kids were seen sporting new tattoos and soaked clothes.

But this well-oiled picnic machine was not finished. When Mr. Moore put out the word, the kids scoured the field for debris, volunteers went into reverse action and in less than an hour, everything was collected and put away, the field was clean, (and watered with melting ice) and another summer picnic was over.

Lori wishes to thank the many volunteers who contributed their time and energy and especially recognizes Michelle Hobbs, who took charge of the raffle table, music and announcements, and has worked with Lori for the four years, and thank Paula Cotton, who took the lead in the food area and Sue Noblitt for managing check-in.

So, how can this fun picnic continue in future years? No worries, while the Romero's eighth grade son will be heading to high school, their current sixth grader will become a seventh grader and then an eighth grader!

VIA volunteers in action



Fruti® Bars on Sale Now

Look for the freezer outside the gym after school

Fall may be fast approaching, but statistically San Diego experiences some of its hottest days right now. So our team of 12 volunteers are stationing themselves outside the gym at both dismissal times each day to sell delicious, cooling Fruti® 100% Natural Frozen Fruit Bars for a special price of \$1.00 each. All proceeds go to support your Academy.

Whether its Banana Cream, Caribbean Mix, Chocolate Dipped Coconut, Chocolate Dipped Strawberry, Strawberry Colada, Strawberry Banana Cream, Coconut, Coconut Cream, Lemon, Lime, Low Fat Chocolate Yogurt, Mango, Pineapple, Raspberry, Strawberry or Strawberry Cream, there's a flavor and a smile waiting for you! (Sorry, with your appetites for these cool treats, we cannot guarantee that all flavors will be available at all times).

All proceeds go to support the Academy.

VIA volunteers in action



New Academy Attire on Sale Soon

Look for order form in Academy Announcer

Looking for a cool-warm sweatshirt or cool-cool tee shirt to show your pride in the Academy? Look no further. These neat items incorporate our new Academy logo and color combination that are a HUGE hit with the students. This is good news since our current 7th graders voted for them!

Sizes come in Youth Medium & Large and Adult Small, Medium, Large & Extra Large.

The Black Hooded Sweatshirt with red-yellow-green spectrum logo is priced at \$26.00. Two 100% Pre-Shrunk Tee Shirt designs are available: black with red-yellow-green spectrum logo (not shown but similar to the sweatshirt pattern) and tie-dye with black logo as shown. Each tee-shirt sells for \$15.00.

Miss Nolasco will be placing an order at the beginning of October. Please look for an order form with a forthcoming issue of the Academy Weekly Announcer.

All proceeds from sales go to the Academy Donation Account.



New Academy wear will soon be available to purchase. (Black tee-shirt not shown).

Optional Academic Opportunities Offered

VIA volunteers in action

Dr. Duy Nguyen to coach Math Club again and teach C++

Again this year, Academy parent, Dr. Duy H. Nguyen, will be coaching the BMMS Math Team. Additionally, he would like to teach a BMMS computer programming course.

Discuss these opportunities with your children and mark your calendars for the following:

Math Club Meeting: Periods 5 and 6 · Friday, September 2 in Mrs. Hudson's Room 1017.

All students interested in learning advanced methods of problem solving are encouraged to attend. Participation in Regional, State, and National Math Competitions is optional. Students interested in participating in San Diego County Math Field Day next May should come learn about the different events that are planned.

Introductory Meeting of Computer Programming Club: Periods 5 and 6 · Friday, September 9 in Mrs. Hudson's Room 1017.

All students interested in learning computer programming are welcome to attend. C++ will be taught. Participation in the United States of America Computing Olympiad (USACO) competition is optional.

Proud to be a Raider

Shown here is a note from PE teacher Brian Kooiman about a new student and his perception of Black Mountain. This story is very inspiring and validating. I believe that our academy students play a small role in this student's perception by our commitment pillar of "Courage to Lead."

....Dennis Moore

From the Desk of Mr. Kooiman

A student came to me on Wednesday to pay us all a compliment. He moved here from Escondido where he attended my old middle school. He was pretty anxious and began telling me how great it was to be at a school like Black Mountain. He said that the kids here look at you in the eye and smile. He said that kids are polite and say please and thank you. He said, "Even my teachers are nice!" Imagine that. He carried on for quite a while and we shared stories about how bad our old school was.



It may look a little fuzzy up there, but its advantages are clear, LearningPoint is a key resource in furthering the connection among our students, parents and teachers. Whether it's checking on assignments, progress, grades or special references or snippets of information that our teachers love to share, LP is one of the first sites that students and parents go to each day to keep current.

PUSD has recently upgraded LearningPoint and added many convenient features. Parents are now provided with one parent account for all of their students. Parent username and password has changed. Parents should have received, beginning August 22, a letter from the district with their new login information together with each student's GRID code required to access grades. Secondary students will be required to change their password on the first login attempt at school or at home by going to <http://password.powayusd.com>

BMMS GRADING CALENDAR First Trimester 2011-12	
09/16/11	Enter 3 week Progress Grades
10/07/11	End of 1 st Trimester progress
10/05/11-10/10/11	Teachers enter progress grades
10/12/11	Progress reports placed in BE mailbox
10/13/11	1 st Trimester Progress reports hand-carried home
10/28/11	Enter 3 week Progress Grades
11/18/11	End of 1 st Trimester
11/14/11-11/28/11	Teachers enter grades for 1 st Trimester Report cards
11/21/11-11/25/11	District Recess (Thanksgiving BMMS GRADING Break)
11/30/11	Report cards placed in BE mailbox
12/01/11	1 st Trimester Report Cards hand-carried home

ACADEMY CALENDAR - September, 2011				
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
			1	2
5 Labor Day No School	6	7 Back to School Night (Mandatory) 6:00-7:30 pm Gym	8	9 SPIRIT DAY C++ Periods 5 & 6 Rm 1016 Advanced Band 6:00 pm MCHS
12	13	14 Science Olympiad Returning Student Mtg 2:30 pm Little Theater PTSA Exec Board Mtg 6:30 pm Library PTSA Assoc Mtg 7:00 pm Library	15	16 Science Olympiad New Student Mtg 2:30 pm Little Theater
19	20	21 Picture Make-up Day	22	23
26 Professional Growth Day No school for Students	27 6th Grade Camp Fundraiser Assembly (Entertainment Books)	28	29	30 1st Turn-in Date for Entertainment Books



- Looking Ahead . . .**
- Oct 11
- Hearing & Vision Screening
 - Oct 12
- PTSA Exec Board Mtg
 - Oct 14
- Band Coffee Concert
 - Oct 16-21
- Red Ribbon Week
 - Oct 19
- Final Picture Make-up
 - Oct 21
- 6th Grade Dance
 - Oct 31 & Nov 1
- Parent Conferences
(Minimum Days)
 - Nov 11
- Veterans Day—No school

DEADLINE
For input to
October Newsletter
September 23
Send to lnagro@san.rr.com



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