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From: Mather Alumni [alumni@matheralumni.org]
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To: cny@nonprofitstrategies.com
Subject: News from Mather High School Alumni Scholarship Fund



Mather Alumni News

November, 2007

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Alumni Scholarship Fund Happenings

Planning is under way for Mather High School's 50th Birthday celebration!

Twenty alumni attended the first planning meeting on November 13th at the Mather library. A brainstorming session generated wonderful ideas for a school gift, celebration activities at Mather, publicity, fundraising, and a variety of year-long events.



This is just the start. All alumni are invited to join. We need your ideas and expertise to help make this an event to remember. Contact us today for more information. Or, click [here](#) to join the planning committee. A second meeting will be planned for February.

Mather Alumni Participate in Principal for a Day

Mather grad, Bob Berland, served as one of the Principals for a Day this year at Mather High School. A silver medal winner in the 1984 Summer Olympics, Mr. Berland hadn't been back to Mather since he graduated in 1979. During his speech, he told

Second Sunday
Concerts
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Irish-American
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Enjoy an evening of
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more about the
concert.

students to never give up following their dreams, even if they missed reaching their ultimate goals. Alumni Gail Paradise and Steven Elrod also participated.

The Principal for a Day program provides an opportunity for companies and industries to support the school system at the local level.

Students from the National Honor Society acted as guides and answered questions about the school.

Remember the Mather Alumni Scholarship Fund for your end-of-year giving!

The Mather High School Alumni Scholarship Fund depends on your support to enable us to award scholarships to deserving Mather seniors. A donation to the scholarship fund is a wonderful way to "give back" to your favorite high school and help a student go on to college. Simply click [here](#) to easily make your donation on-line. Or, if you prefer to write a check you will be able to download a donation form and mail it to our office.

Volunteer Today!

It's not too late to volunteer as a judge at this year's Science Fair on December 15th!

Make a memorable impact on the lives of some very talented students. Share your knowledge and excitement about science with the Mather student body. All scientific disciplines will be represented -- biology, chemistry, physics, health care, engineering, astronomy, computer science and more! [Contact Robin Bluestone-Miller \(1969\), Program Director, to get your name on the list.](#)



We receive many requests from teachers for alumni to speak to their students about different professions. Students also come to us with an interest in job shadowing. [Contact Robin Bluestone-Miller \(1969\), Program](#)



[Director, to get your name on the list.](#)

Or, complete the [volunteer form](#) on our website

School News

Mather Offers Unique Program - The Law and Public Safety Academy



Many of you are not familiar with Mather's Law and Public Safety Academy. This program provides students with a high quality college preparatory education while introducing them to the different careers in the field of law and law enforcement. It began at Mather eight years ago and has graduated approximately 18 students every year during the four years. Over 400 8th grade applicants annually write statements of interest, submit their ISAT scores, and two letters of recommendation in the hope of getting accepted into this program. All accepted have had successful high school experiences at the Law Academy and many continued to pursue careers in the legal system.

Law Academy students participate in special honor's classes throughout their four years at Mather. They take college preparatory classes and also specialized classes in criminal, civil and constitutional law, psychology and the legal system, and U. S. government and politics. They also have opportunities to participate in criminal and civil mock trial competitions. During their senior year, they participate in two 13 week internships to get some on-the-job experience. Some of their internships have been at Northwestern Legal Clinic, judges at Cook County Circuit Courts, and Constitutional Rights Foundation.

Pat McAvoy is the teacher who oversees the selection, education and placement process. Before entering the education arena, she worked for 30 years as marketing professional at United Airlines. Ms. McAvoy decided she wanted a career that would help others and "give back", so she returned to school and received a Masters degree in Education. She took over at the Law Academy in 2004. Being involved with the Law Academy gives her the "rare ability to be with students for four years, see them grow and also get personally involved in their college plans". She has kept in contact with many of the students after graduation from Mather.

Ms. McAvoy's current challenge is to help five students raise

money so they can attend a special leadership conference in Washington, D.C. from April 27-May 3, 2008. This conference, sponsored by the Close Up Foundation, provides a way for students to study democracy in action and motivate positive attitudes about civic involvement. They will meet with Senate and House Representatives on Capitol Hill and hear debates about different theories of government. You can learn more about this conference at www.closeup.org.

The students are trying to raise funds by collecting and selling **USED** cell phones, ink jet cartridges, DVD movies, video games, portable DVD players, laptop/notebook computers, MP3 players, digital cameras, picture frames and GPS systems. If you have any interest in helping or supporting this program, please contact Pat McAvoy at 773-534-2350 x22966. Let us know what you have donated so we can provide you with a donation letter.

Mather Alumni Respond to School's Wish List

Teachers are always struggling to provide equipment and materials for their students. They have asked us for our help. Take a look at the following Wish Lists and see if you are able to donate any of the items. If you can, please contact the teacher directly. Then send us a letter or email describing your donation and the value and we will send you a letter for your taxes.

Art Department
Contact: Jennifer Brown
Telephone: (773) 534-2350
E-mail: jfbrown@cps.edu

Various art supplies (non-toxic) including brushes, water-based paint and ink, colored pencils, pastels, scissors, paper, glue sticks, clay tools and equipment. Click [here](#) to see a complete list of needed items.

Drama Department
MaryBeth Belmonte
Phone: (773) 534-2350
E-mail: mbelmonte@cps.edu

Ms. Belmonte would like a digital video recorder so that she can record her students' performances. This way they can view themselves on video, which is the best way to make improvements to a performance. Also, at the end of the year her classes direct, produce, design, star in, and run their own one-act plays. It is a huge undertaking, and last year's first

attempt was a tremendous success. She would like to be able to record these shows and make CDs of the one-acts for the student directors, actors, and designers to use in future portfolios.

Music Department
Contact: Candace Harbaugh
Phone: (773) 534-2350
E-mail: ceharbaugh@cps.edu

Wants to provide a good a home for your old stereo equipment.

Alumni Connection

Help us connect with the alumni. We maintain quite an extensive database of alumni addresses and e-mail information. The database is used to:



- Send e-bursts to alumni in a specific class with reunion information
- Keep alumni informed of our activities via the newsletter
- Announce events such as the upcoming fundraiser
- Inform the alumni about plans for the 50th Birthday celebration

But we need your help! If you have a list that you used when planning your reunion, a class list or simply a list of friends, please send them to us. Electronic copies are best but we will certainly accept hard copies. When possible, we ask that you include e-mail addresses. E-mail names to alumni@matheralumni.org or mail to the address at the bottom of this newsletter.

Thank you for your help. The more names we collect the more connected everyone can remain with Mather.

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