

APEX NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Fall 2009 session! I hope your families have successfully adjusted to your new teachers, schools and schedules.

Last year, Apex College Prep closed out the school year with our very own Apex Math Tournament. Teams of elementary and middle school students from all over the Bay Area flocked to the Dorris Eaton School to display their mathematical prowess. The tournament field was extremely competitive, but Apex students held their own and emerged victorious from the middle school team division.

This summer proved to be an exciting and busy time for the Apex community. Many returning and new students demonstrated their commitment to learning during the summer through the SAT Boot Camp, JEI curriculum, enrichment classes, and reviewing or previewing for school courses.

The fall of 2009 brings about a significant expansion of our class selection, including a Robotics Class, Korean Language, Math Club for 4th and 5th grade students, SSAT/ISEE prep classes, and much more. Take advantage of what Apex has to offer and best of luck this school year!

Julie Yi
Director

IMPORTANT DATES

Sat 10/10	College Board SAT Tests
Sat 10/17	PSAT/NMSQT Test
Sat 10/24	ACT Test
Sat 11/7	College Board SAT Tests
Thurs 11/26 - Fri 11/27	Thanksgiving Break - APEX CLOSED
Sat 12/5	College Board SAT Tests
Sat 12/12	ACT Test
Sat 12/19	Fall Session Ends
Thurs 12/24 - Fri 12/25	Christmas Break - APEX CLOSED
Thurs 12/31 - Fri 1/1	New Year's Break - APEX CLOSED
Sat 1/23	College Board SAT Tests

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

President Obama Addresses America's Schoolchildren, Urges Students to "Take Responsibility"

Last week, at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Virginia, President Barack Obama welcomed American students back to school with an inspiring speech. His address focused on motivating students to take responsibility for their own futures by applying themselves to their schoolwork.

Obama emphasized the central role that personal responsibility plays in determining one's success in the future. Despite the support that parents, teachers and adults provide, it is ultimately up to the students to seize their own opportunities. Every student, he stated, has a passion or talent that they must seek to discover through academic activities, such as writing English essays, completing science projects, or participating on a debate team.

The president used his own life story to illustrate how hard work and determination can help overcome obstacles that many underprivileged, troubled youth may face. He explained that everyone, including J.K. Rowling and Michael Jordan, among others, faces difficulties, but there is no excuse for not trying. Obama urged students to set goals for themselves, embrace challenges, and work hard to determine their own futures. Their success, he said, is essential to America's success and the future of our nation.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Most high school seniors are aware of how important the college application process is, but few know how to approach it. To make a successful campaign to the colleges of their choice, students must be aware of their personal interests, strengths and weaknesses, college preferences, and more. Apex College Prep's College Counseling team can assist your students with the myriad tasks associated with the college application process.

The Apex College Counseling Team is composed of 2 highly qualified, experienced college advisors:

Julie Yi:

- UC Berkeley Graduate
- UCLA Certified College Counselor

Teresa Wornow

- Columbia College Graduate
- Harvard Law School Graduate

Some of the services we offer:

- **Strong Interest Inventory Test**
 - o Measures student's interest levels to determine possible majors of study
 - o Helps students identify strengths, weaknesses and personality traits
- **Building Your College List**
 - o Pinpoint what students are looking for in a university
 - o Narrow down from a list of over 4,000 universities in the U.S.
 - o Identify safety schools, good matches, and reach schools
- **College Essay and Application Workshop**
 - o Designed to help seniors navigate the college application process
 - o Assists students in writing unique, powerful and memorable essays

Dates TBD

NEW APEX PROGRAMS

Robotics Class (Mon. 4 – 6 pm)

Students in this class will be part of the Apex Robotics Team, which will compete at local and regional First LEGO League tournaments. Team members will work together to design, build and program a robot to do timed tasks. In addition, the team will research, write, and present a written report on how to combat transportation-related problems. This is a year-round program – it will run for 8 weeks during the fall, winter, and spring sessions.

JEI – Korean Language

We are expanding our JEI Curriculum to include Korean language. Designed to teach students reading, writing, and Korean language fluency.

Math Club for 4th/5th Grade (Weds 4 – 5:30 pm)

Apex is adding a new level to the Math Club program for advanced 4th and 5th graders. To enroll, students must pass a qualifying test. The Math Club develops students' critical thinking, problem solving, and logic skills through challenging problems and participating in competitions.

SAT Jr. Class (Sat. 9 am – 1 pm)

The SAT Jr. class prepares 7th and 8th grade students for the January 23 SAT Test, where they will aim to qualify for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) camp next summer. Students will build their critical reading, vocabulary, and math skills. To qualify, critical reading or math scores must be 500 or higher for 7th graders, and 550 or higher for 8th graders.

Students in this class who score 700 or higher in Math or Critical Reading before the age of 13 also qualify to participate in CTY's SET (Study of Exceptional Talent). SET helps identify ways to maximize learning for these accelerated students.

SSAT/ISEE Prep Class (Sat 2 – 6 pm)

Students planning on applying to private high schools must take the SSAT or the ISEE exam. This course focuses on enhancing vocabulary, reading comprehension skills, writing essays, and math concepts that

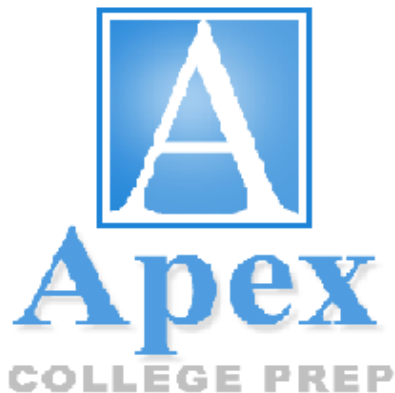
MATH CLUB COMPETITION CALENDAR

- All events listed in **bold** will be held on the date listed
 - o Ex: The AMC 8 will be held on Nov. 17 for all students
- All other events will be held in class, during the week of the date listed
 - o Ex: The Math Olympiad (1) will be held in class during the week of Nov. 16

	Elementary	Middle School	High School
September		24 NATA (1)	24 NATA (1)
October	19 Sigma (1)	19 Sigma (1)	19 Sigma (1)
November	16 Math Olympiad (1)	16 Math Olympiad (1)	2 Mandelbrot (1)
	17 AMC 8	17 AMC 8	30 Sigma (2)
	30 Sigma (2)	30 Sigma (2)	
December	14 Math Olympiad (2)	10 NATA (2)	1 Mandelbrot (2)
		14 Math Olympiad (2)	14 NATA (2)
January	11 Math Olympiad (3), Sigma (3)	11 Math Olympiad (3), Sigma (3)	4 Mandelbrot (3) 11 Sigma (3)
February	8 Math Olympiad (4)	4 NATA (3)	1 Mandelbrot (4)
	22 Sigma (4)	8 Math Olympiad (4)	4 NATA (3)
		22 Sigma (4)	9 AMC 10A/12A 22 AMC 10B/12B, Sigma (4)
March	8 Math Olympiad (5)	8 Math Olympiad (5)	17 AIME 1 Mandelbrot (5)
April	5 Sigma (5)	5 Sigma (5)	5 Sigma (5) 27 USAMO
May	23 Apex MO Tournament	23 Apex MO Tournament	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Tuition, Discounts, and Cancellations**
 - o Payment is due on the 1st day of class each month
 - o A late charge of \$10 per week will be assessed after the 5th day of the month
 - o No refunds will be issued once classes have begun
 - o Those who refer new students will receive a tuition discount. Inquire within for details.
 - o **NEW CANCELLATION POLICY FOR PRIVATE TUTORING:** Absences must be reported at least 48 hours before the scheduled lesson. Failure to comply will result in a charge equal to 1 hour of the private tutoring rate.
- **Fall SAT Program: 10 Week Intensive Test Prep for October PSAT/SAT and November ACT**
 - o Currently, the Apex SAT Program is held on Saturdays from 9 am - 6 pm for 11th and 12th grader students. The expanded class includes weekly SAT tests in the morning, careful review of the test in the afternoon, and additional vocabulary, writing and math practice.
- **Winter Programs**
 - o This winter, international students can enroll in **Apex Uhak** a comprehensive study abroad program for foreign students. The program incorporates all aspects of studying and living abroad, such as a homestay, transportation and a full academic curriculum. Students have the options of participating in Apex's SAT program, enrichment classes and a variety of other academic and recreational activities. Visit www.apexuhak.com for details.
 - o During winter break, Apex will offer an **8-Day Winter SAT Boot Camp**. Out center will be open Mon. 12/21 – Weds. 12/23, Sat. 12/26, Mon. 12/28 – Weds. 12/30 and Sat. 1/2. This program is geared towards preparing students for the January 23 SAT Test. Contact Mrs. Yi for more information.



**HIGH QUALITY CENTERS
FOR THE BEST EDUCATION**

1850 Tice Valley Blvd.

Walnut Creek, CA 94595

925.930.8255

www.apexcollegeprep.com

DON'T FORGET...

Check out Apex College Prep's website

www.apexcollegeprep.com

**for an updated calendar of events and holidays,
class schedules and assignments, news, such as results
from the International Math Olympiad, and more!**

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