

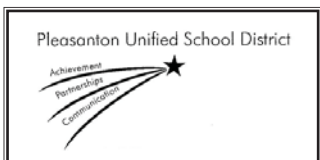


Fairlands Flyer

Above and Beyond. . . The Sky's the Limit

Fairlands Elementary School & PTA

March 2008



Fairlands Elementary School

4151 W. Las Positas Blvd.
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Office: 426 - 4210
Attendance: 462 - 0926
www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us

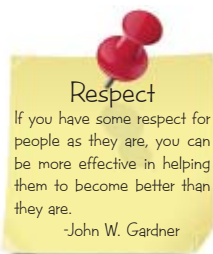
Fairlands PTA
www.fairlands.com/PTA/

Fairlands Flyer
Please submit articles to:
fairlandsflyer@yahoo.com
Mary Briones, Newsletter Editor

This newsletter is produced and paid for by the Fairlands PTA for the benefit of the Fairlands community members. We make every effort to provide you with the most accurate and complete information and occasionally, mistakes can happen. We gather our information from different sources regarding school, district, and community events as they may be pertinent to you while they may not have any association with the Fairlands PTA organization.

Upcoming Events

- 3/3: Read Across America
- 3/4: Assembly - Mobile Ed
- 3/5: Environmental Awareness/Go Green Meeting
9:30am in MPR
- 3/7: Principal's Coffee, 8:30am in MPR
- 3/11: Agenda items due to Executive Board by 3pm
- 3/12: PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:30am
- 3/12: Fairlands Flyer Article Deadline
- 3/12: Jump Rope for Heart 3:10 - 4pm
- 3/13: Minimum Day, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 3/14: Minimum Day, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 3/17: Science Fun Fair Projects Due
- 3/18: Science Fun Fair Student Interviews Day
- 3/18: PTA Meeting, 7:00pm MPR
- 3/19: Science Fun Fair @ the Fairgrounds
- 3/20: Original Works Art orders due
- 3/21: No School, Spring Break Begins
- 3/24: No School, Spring Break
- 3/31: School Resumes



A Message From the Principal

Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed drastic budget cuts that will affect our students and their education. The impact of the unprecedented cuts proposed in the Governor's budget would also severely impact each and every school. For elementary students this may include an increase in class size, the loss of our reading specialists, counselors, vice principals, and intervention programs for students at risk of not meeting standards. With a reduction in services to our struggling students, all students will be affected as the classroom teacher will be the only available resource to meet the needs of each and every student in his/her classroom. Pleasanton school district is known for our outstanding programs and our ability to meet the needs of ALL students. We are known for our commitment to working as a team to ensure ALL students reach their potential. Our children need your help now to urge legislators not to cut the funding of Proposition 98, the minimum public education funding guarantee for our students. Here are a few ways that you can help:

- Attend the Meet Your Legislators on Thursday, March 6, 2008 from 6:30pm-9:00pm at the Alameda County Office of Education.
- Join in the Fairlands letter writing campaign.
- Fairlands PTA urges you to express your concern for the proposed California State Budget cuts by writing to Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Corbett and your assembly member. A sample letter is included at the end of this newsletter. You may also download a sample letter from our website.
- Join me for a special **Principal's Coffee on Friday, March 7th** to review how these cuts may potentially affect our students and what we can do to communicate our concerns to the legislature.
- Contact your state representatives:
 - **Assembly Member State of California 15th District: Guy Houston (R)**
1635 Chestnut Street, #A-1, Livermore, CA 9455, Phone: 925-606-4990, Fax: 925-606-4488
or
Capitol Building Room #2130, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, Ca. 94249
Phone: 916-319-2015, Fax: 916-319-2115
Assemblymember.houston@assembly.ca.gov
 - **Assembly Member State of California 18th District: Mary Hayashi**
22320 Foothill Blvd. Suite 540, Hayward, CA 94541, Phone: 510-583-8818, Fax: 510-583-8800
or
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0018
Phone: 916-319-2018, Fax: 916-319-2118
Assemblymember.Hayashi@assembly.ca.gov
 - **Assembly Member State of California 20th District: Albert Torrico**
39510 Paseo Padre Parkway #28, Fremont, CA 94538
Phone: 510-440-9030, Fax: 510-440-9035
or
Capitol Building #3091, P.O. 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: 916-319-2020, Fax: 916-319-2120
Assemblymember.torrico@assembly.ca.gov
 - **Senator, State of California District 10: Ellen Corbett (D)**
1057 MacArthur Blvd. Suite 206, San Leandro CA 94577
Phone: 510-413-5960, Fax: 510-413-5965
or
State Capitol, Sacramento CA, 95814-4900, Phone: 916-651-4010, Fax: 916-327-2433
Senator.corbett@sen.ca.gov

If you do not know who your assembly member is you can go to: <http://www.capwebworks.com/addresslookup/lookup.aspx>



Please join Mrs. Michels for a special Principal's Coffee on Friday, March 7th at 8:30am in the MPR to discuss the budget cuts and how it will affect the Fairlands community.

School News and Events



A Message from the Vice Principal

This month's recipients for **Self-Discipline** have demonstrated self-control, goal setting, and hard work. Please help us to recognize and salute these students. We are especially proud of our students and staff who take the initiative to go Above and Beyond. These students were all recognized at our Character Assembly and had pizza with the Mrs. Michels on February 14th while the Kindergartners had pizza with Mrs. Michels on February 13th.

Kindergarten

Andrew Kwon (Dean)
Sayli Limaye (Dean)
Sana Khan (Fracisco)
Angie Wong (Fracisco)
Amey Walimbe (Green)
Lindsay Wang (Green)
Alex Benito (O'Sullivan)
Samantha Gray (O'Sullivan)
Jonathan Sy (Rosa)
Kyra Thordsen (Rosa)
Audrey Googins (Shelley)
Eric Huang (Shelley)

First Grade

Shelley Ho (Atkins)
Marisa Torre (Atkins)
Divya Vilekar (Eastman)
Makayla Rios (Eastman)
Kenneth Swan (Esse)
Julia Camello (Esse)
Purvaj Kandula (Linn)
Ashey Jang (Linn)
Erin Hu (Rainey)
Jeannie Bae (Rainey)
Rishab Singh (Rainey)
Emily Tincher (Sanchez)
Megan Rae (Sanchez)
Asim Biswal (Talbot)
Denise Andal (Talbot)

Second Grade

Justin Kim (Albrigo)
Helen Kang (Albrigo)
Melanie Desroches (Gerstenberg)
Johanna Abello (Gerstenberg)
Calvin Chou (Hagstrom)
Sarah-Grace Adkison (Hagstrom)
Ariel Wang (Klopatek)
Maxime Berenshteyn (Klopatek)
SidneyVaeth (Russell)
Jared Caldwell (Russell)

Third Grade

Sofia Molina (Boster)
Samarth Desai (Boster)
Aoife O'Farrell (Cullison)
Anthony Bowser (Cullison)
Audrey Morse (Griffith)
Vasu Singhania (Griffith)
Kyle Yorn (Racette/Dalesio)
Danielle Domagas (Racette/Dalesio)
Richard Cong (Throne)
Nicolina Priess (Throne)

Fourth Grade

Sandra Sajeev (Crawley)
Vera Smekalina (Crawley)
Tia Vashistha (Crawley)
Celestine Co (Hansen)
Matthew Briones (Hansen)
William Hsieh (Hansen)
Jamal Dessouky (Norem)
Jenny Shien (Norem)
Kaitlyn Wang (Norem)

Fifth Grade

Lauren Caldwell (Dankwardt)
Vinod Krishnamurthy (Dankwardt)
Rachel Nishijima (Dankwardt)
Allison Johnson (Dankwardt)
Parker Moberg (Highfill)
Chase Henley (Highfill)
Seth Girvan (Highfill)
Justin Watts (Mecozzi)
Sabrina Dolan (Mecozzi)
Spencer Aquilina (Mecozzi)
Tiffani Swan (Romagna)
Laila Birznieks (Romagna)
Omid Eibagi (Romagna)



Science Fun Fair News

Important Dates to Remember:

- **Science Fun Fair student interview day:** Tuesday, March 18
- **Science Fun Fair Night at the Fairgrounds:** Wednesday, March 19

The Science Fun Fair is approaching quickly! Please check with your child's teacher regarding the final due date for the project. The final date for all projects to be turned in for judging is March 17th.

There are a small number of science fair project display boards still available for purchase in the science lab on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Prices range from \$2.50 - \$6.50 for cardboard or foam-backed boards. Hurry while supplies last!

In order for the science fair to run smoothly the way it has in years past at Fairlands, we need to have about 20 volunteers on the day of our interviews on Tuesday March 18. In addition, we desperately need about 5 people to transport the projects to the fairgrounds on Wednesday, March 19. Times are flexible on those days, but most shifts are in the morning between 8am and 12pm. Thank you to the parents and families who have already volunteered on those days! Please contact Mrs. Holder at sholder@pleasanton.k12.ca.us if you can join in and help.

Excellence in Education Award Nominations

The Pleasanton PTA Council and Pleasanton Unified School District are seeking nominations for the 18th Annual Excellence in Education Awards. Individuals should be nominated based on personal merit as well as exemplary contributions made to public education. The two categories for nominations are Classroom Teacher and At-Large. Any classroom teacher who has not been previously honored may be nominated. The At-Large category includes employees (other than teachers) whose jobs are connected with Pleasanton public schools. Volunteers are not eligible for this award. A public ceremony for the honorees will be held on June 4. The deadline for entries is March 19 at 4 p.m. Please mail your nomination form and letter to: Pleasanton PTA Council, c/o PUSD Maintenance, 4750 First Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The nomination form and list of previous honorees can be download from www.pleasantonpta.org. For questions or further information, call the PTA Council at 426-2492 or email Kim Chew at smchew@sbcglobal.net.

PTA News and Events

A Message from the PTA President

What Can YOU Do?

Fairlands families, we need to stress to our elected officials the need to support education funding.

Contact your elected officials. Thank you to those who turned in letters through our letter writing campaign. If you did not turn in a letter, you can still sign the template letters and mail them yourself. Or *(even easier!)* you can email your legislators, and simply state your case by including 'support education funding and Prop 98' in the subject line and then signing your email in the body with your name and address. You may also call your legislators with this same message – support education funding and Prop 98. Please contact the PTA at fairlandspta@yahoo.com if you need assistance contacting your legislators or would like copies of the letter templates.

Keep yourself informed. Attend the Principal's Coffee on Friday, March 7. Principal Kim Michels will discuss how these budget cuts will potentially affect our school. There is also information on the PUSD website (<http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/>), including budget information and recommendations from the school board for potential cuts. Contact our school board members if you have comments or concerns about these recommended cuts. Visit the California State PTA website (www.capta.org and <http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/alert-011108.cfm>) for up to date information about what the state PTA is doing in Sacramento. For a non partisan explanation of the school budget cuts, go to the EdSource website at <http://californiaschoolfinance.org/tabid/182/Default.aspx>.

Here are some basic points from the California State PTA and the CA Education Coalition about the budget proposal:

- There is a major challenge in balancing the state's budget, but our children's education should not have to pay the price for it.
- The state has a goal of improving student achievement. The budget reductions are in direct opposition to this goal! Teachers could lose their jobs, class size reduction could

disappear, and additional support personnel (school staff and specialists) will be reduced or eliminated.

- Voters passed Prop 98. If Prop 98 is suspended, this will conflict with the will of the voters and jeopardize the minimum education funding levels Prop. 98 provides for students and schools.
- According to a report from Education Week, California spends \$2,000 less per student than the national average. Other recent studies have shown that California seriously under funds its public schools, yet has some of the most challenging standards. In addition, California has some of the most overcrowded classrooms as well as the greatest shortage of librarians, counselors and other critical support staff in the nation.
- Budget cuts alone are not a real solution, increasing revenues need to be addressed.

"The proposed California State budget flunks the basic test of good government: It hurts our children. A budget is a reflection of our community values. This budget does not value the education, health, or welfare of our children and the future of California." Pam Brady, President of the California State PTA.

Some people say, "Oh, I don't want to join the PTA. It's too political. I'm not into that stuff." Well, now is the time to be a part of the PTA membership, because our voice, one million members strong, is speaking on behalf of the State's 6.3 million children. Although the children outnumber the PTA members (and I'm pretty sure that not all of those children's parents are PTA members), the PTA organization is working on every child's behalf. And although not every school (not even here in Pleasanton) is a PTA school, the PTA organization is working to help the children in every school. PTA is a powerful voice – there is strength in numbers.

Sandi Thomas
PTA President

100 Ways to Help Your Child and School Succeed

(From the National PTA Website)

There are many ways to be involved with your child's education. You're probably doing some of these things already. Maybe it's calling the teacher to say "thank you" or to ask a question, or attending a parent or school board meeting. You'll soon see the effects of your efforts—that's because when parents get involved in their children's education, everyone benefits.

- Approach interactions with school administration and staff with a positive attitude and an open mind.
- Make appointments as needed to discuss your child's progress or concerns.
- Arrange to visit your child's classroom or have lunch with your child at the school.
- Help develop, visit, or offer services to your school's study/tutor center.
- Participate in academic fairs as a family.
- Coordinate and participate in evening and weekend volunteer activities at school.
- Assist school staff and educators in creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for parents.
- Voice your support or concerns on any issue that will affect your family.
- Become part of a school-based management team with teachers and the principal.
- Make local agencies and businesses aware of what's happening at your school.

www.pta.org

Pleasanton PTA Council Corner

Free Will & Company Shows!

Tuesday, March 11th at the Amador Theater

6:30 pm – Pinocchio

8:00 pm – A Midsummer Night's Dream

Both shows are free (no tickets needed). Just come and enjoy. Doors open at 6:00pm with open seating

Outstanding Fairlands Teachers and Staff!

Excellence in Education nominations are due on March 19th. Wouldn't you love to see your favorite teacher or staff member get some well-deserved recognition? Forms are available online at <http://www.pleasantonpta.org/#ee>.

Join us April 4th at 4:00pm at the Amador Valley High School Parking lot for a rally opposing the state education budget cuts.



Looking for someone to enrich the lives of over 600 children in the Fairlands community, including your own!

Come join the Board of the 2008 - 2009 Fairlands PTA and really make a difference at your school next year! All positions are open and waiting to be filled.

PTA News and Events

PPIE News



PLEASANTON
PARTNERSHIPS
in EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Upcoming Grant Deadlines:

PPIE (Pleasanton Partnership in Education) Foundation Student Grant applications are now being accepted for the second cycle of funding. Funding is available in amounts up to \$500 per project/per year for extracurricular or co-curricular PUSD student projects. Remember, all applications must be student authored. See the application packet for complete details. Applications may be obtained from the PPIE Foundation website, www.PPIE.org or by contacting the PPIE office at mail@ppie.org or (925) 846-5620. Application deadline for Cycle #2 is **March 18, 2008**.

PPIE Foundation Education Grant application packets may be obtained from the PPIE website, www.ppie.org. This year's deadline for Education Grant applications is **April 15, 2008**. Education grants are available to teachers and faculty of PUSD and fund in amounts up to \$2500. For more information, contact your PPIE Parent Ambassador (**Becky Simons 846-8146**) or contact the PPIE office at mail@ppie.org or (925) 846-5620.

For the Golf Enthusiasts

The Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship Tournament is coming to Wente Vineyards from April 3-6. This tournament showcases the PGA Nationwide Tour which includes great golf and "up and coming" golf stars. Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE) will be partnering with the school organizations to sell tickets to this tournament! All money from ticket sales will be split between the foundation and the Fairlands PTA - a win-win for our school! The tickets are \$20 each and will allow the ticket holder to access the grounds for all four days of the tournament! Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult (limit two children per adult). This wonderful event will also feature fabulous food and wine pavilion hosted by Diablo Magazine, an AT&T technology pavilion presented by Logitech, and more!

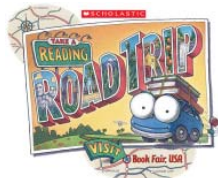
It will be great fun for not only golf enthusiasts, but for the entire family. Please contact Becky Simons, PPIE Ambassador at pbsimons@comcast.net or at **846-8146** or contact the PPIE office at **846-5620** or mail@ppie.org to purchase your tickets. Tickets will make great gifts for those golf lovers on your list!! Be sure to act fast! This is sure to be a sell-out.

SPRING BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

Our Spring Book Fair is scheduled for **Monday, April 14th, through Friday, April 18th**. We are giving everyone who is interested in helping with the Book Fair a heads' up to get their "Volunteer Clearance Forms" processed now, if you haven't already done so. You may check with Ann Rodriguez in the school office to verify that you have been cleared for the school year. Otherwise, you will have to fill out a form and get it in ASAP, since it takes several weeks to process.

Michelle Gray and I are also looking for anyone who is interested in taking over our positions as Book Fair Chairs. If you are interested in leading this committee or need additional information, please contact Darline at **485-3201** at your convenience, day or night. We are hoping to start training the new committee leader(s) during the Spring Book Fair. This position is a really fun one, if you enjoy books and kids!

Darline Thiede and Michelle Gray
Book Fair Chairpersons



Get Ready to Set Sail on an Around the World Cruise!



When: Friday, April 18, 2008

Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Where: Fairlands MPR

Visit exotic ports of call like India, Japan, Mexico, Italy, Ireland, the Philippines and more without leaving Pleasanton! **Fairlands' Annual Multicultural Night is Friday, April 18th**. All Fairlands families are invited to attend this free event, hosted by the Fairlands PTA. Our embarkation point is the Fairlands Multipurpose Room at 6:30pm, and we will return to port at 9:00pm. We will have "onboard" entertainment and food from around the world.

We are also looking for families to share their cultural heritage. At the Multicultural Night you could:

- Display clothing, information, photographs, artifacts, or arts and crafts from a country of your heritage.
- Perform a cultural dance, skill, song, or share a folk tale.
- Provide food to share from your cultural heritage.

A flier with sign up information will be sent home soon, but start thinking now about how you could share your cultural heritage with the school community. The more cultures and countries represented, the more enriching the experience for us all.

Additionally, at lunchtime during the days prior to this event, April 14th - 17th, there will be games and crafts from different parts of the world for students to participate in. Don't miss this fun and educational event!!

If you would like to help with this event or the lunchtime activities, please contact Michele Barta at mibatahiti@yahoo.com. If you would like to perform at this event, please contact Jodie Vashistha at jvashistha@aol.com. This is one of the most popular events the PTA sponsors at Fairlands, but we can't do it without your help. We need lots of volunteers for this event so please contact us!

Thank you!

Jodie Vashistha and Michele Barta
Your "Cruise Directors"

PTA News and Events

Welcome to the Green Page. . . March Edition

Congratulations to all the students who participated in our 'Second Annual Writing & Poster Contest. This year, we received forty-seven entries in all. We wanted to know what the students felt about the importance of recycling, and what the biggest problem is facing the environment today.

There were many colorful, creative and innovative illustrations, essays and stories. The contest gave students a chance to share their thoughts in a written and/or artistic way. The first place winners each received, 'Cold Stone Creamery' gift cards, an environmental book, stickers, and a Trader Joe's reusable grocery bag. All entries are displayed on our Go Green wall in hallway. Thanks to everyone for your participation and inspiration!

First place winners:

- K - Siri Deevi**
- 1st - Jianna Liu**
- 2nd - Sara Kenning**
- 3rd - Steven Wu**
- 4th - Megan Do**
- 5th - Aditya Jhanwar**

Other winners: **John Morse, Eric Huang, Vikram Narendar, Nisha Prabhakar, Deepak Ragu, Nathan Quintana, Rohith Sajith, Rachel Tuazon, Stibi Nanda, Shruti Ganesh, Eric Thomas, Matthew Kenning, Samantha Do, Soobin Park, Bryan Hao, Warren Zhang, Kunal Kaul, Jayanth Arvindh, Victoria Goetz, Jasmine Dessouky, Julian Dessouky, Jamal Dessouky, Hari Deevi, Kaitlyn**

Wang, Jasmine Benito, Caitlyn Sigua, Joshua Pineda, Audrey Morse, Kamryn Brown, Lauren McNamara, Ammar Campwala, Jamila Campwala, Anthony Minaise, Monica Azmi, Diana Lin, Vinod Krishnamurthy, Jihyeon Lee, Snigdha Jayavarapu, Purvaj Kandula, Smrithi Pakakulam and Nishank Kuppa. Also, special thanks to our judges, **Mrs. Holder, Mrs. Cullison, Kelli Peterson and Sandi Thomas.**

Upcoming events: St. Patrick's Day, Nike Reuse-A Shoe, Earth Day Festivities (including the Grocery bag Project)

Wal-Mart Kids' Recycling Challenge continues through March 19. We are very close to reaching our goal of 250, (60-gallon) collection bags. We have successfully collected and recycled 205 collection bags to date. We have earned \$\$\$ and kept unnecessary plastic from our landfills. Thank you to everyone in our community for your recycling efforts.

Reminder: Next EA/GG meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5 @ 9:30, MPR. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please come to the meeting and sign-up or contact me via email at rsdjj@yahoo.com. See you there!

Ruth Dessouky
EA/GG committee

New Fairlands Flyers Baseball Caps are Coming Soon!



Keep an eye out for the new Fairlands Flyers baseball caps! We expect them to be available by the end of March. These cool embroidered baseball caps will sell for only \$12 each. A must have to show your school spirit!

You Shop... Our Kids Win!

Sign up with eScrip and every time you shop at any of the over 6,000 merchant locations, a percentage of your purchases will go to our group.

- Go to www.escrip.com
- Click on Sign Up
- Enter our Group ID# [141538060](http://www.escrip.com)

**It's Free,
It's Easy,
It's Powerful!**



Talent Show a Tremendous Success!



Our 2008 Talent Show was a wonderful event! Hundreds of eager family and friends enjoyed the entertainment of 54 talented Fairlands students in a special evening that will long be remembered. Thanks again to all the performers who created terrific acts and to their families for supporting their efforts. You should all be so very proud!

I would like to express my thanks to the PTA board and members for supporting and financing the Talent Show. It is an outstanding opportunity for Fairlands students to express their creativity and practice important public performance skills. Thank you to **Mrs. Michels** who lends her heartfelt support and presence to the show each year; to our custodial crew of **Carmen and Martha** who set up and take down the stage innumerable times; to **Adrienne Herz, Terri Smith and Sandi Thomas** for hosting play dates that make it possible for Jodie and me to run 30 hours of auditions and rehearsals!

Finally, I again thank my Co-Chair and friend, **Jodie Vashistha**, for being the voice of reason, the technical guru and the most dependable of partners.

See you at the 2009 Talent Show!

Kristin Werder
Talent Show Co-Chair

Distinguished School Award Site Visit Luncheon



Thank you to **Claudia Yopez, Winnie Overgaard, Kelly Peterson, Mimi Zhang, Miyoko Smalheiser, Becky Simons, Marianne O'Farrell, Naela Williams, Angie Henley, Lorie Priess, Stefani Katz, Kristin Werder, Mannie Nimmo, Mary McNamara, Michele Barta, Coleen Ito-Azuma, Adrienne Herz, Terri Smith, Dixie Florio, Katey Shinn, Adrienne Torre, Karen Tincher, Ruth Dessouky, and Sandi Thomas.** Because of your contributions of food, flowers, and assistance, the luncheon was an absolute success.

Jodie Vashistha
PTA Financial Secretary

Community News and Events

Pleasanton Unified School District and Amador Valley Adult & Community Education Present:

Parent Education Classes in March, 2008

Building Positive Behavior in Difficult Teens

Class meets: Thursday, March 20, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Amador Valley High School Room L-3

Instructor: Tom Dozier, owner and primary instructor for Guaranteed Parent Training

Cool School Moves: Improving Your Child's Academic Performance Using Brain Gym®

Class meets: Tuesday, March 5, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Hearst Elementary School Library

Instructor: Sydney Shepperd, longtime parent educator, and certified Brain Gym® instructor

Handling Sibling Rivalry

Class meets: Monday, March 10, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Hearst Elementary School Room B-24

Instructor: Janet Shurtleff, parent educator

Parenting Your Aging Parent

Class meets: Tuesday, March 18, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Harvest Park Middle School Room B18

Instructor: Ruth Gasten, parent educator for over 35 years

Stop Using Coercion and Do Something That Really Works

Class meets: Thursday, March 6, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Amador Valley High School Library

Instructor: Tom Dozier, owner and primary instructor for Guaranteed Parent Training

Talking to Your Child About Sex – and Getting Your Message Across!

Class meets: Monday, March 3, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pleasanton Middle School MPR

Instructors: Teresa LeMay and panel of PUSD health education teachers and counselors

The "Strong-Willed" Child

Class meets: Thursday, March 13, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Amador Valley High School Library

Instructor: Tom Dozier, owner and primary instructor for Guaranteed Parent Training

They Grow Up So Fast: Effective Discipline with Your Pre-Teen

Class meets: Wednesdays, March 5 & 12, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Amador Valley High School Library

Instructor: Sydney Shepperd, longtime parent educator, and certified Brain Gym® instructor

Understanding Our Sons

Class meets: Tuesday, March 18, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Amador Valley High School Library

Instructor: George Papageorge, Marriage and Family Therapist, parenting workshop leader

What Young Children Need to Succeed

Class meets: Tuesday, March 4, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Hearst Elementary School Room B 28

Instructor: Tammy Gardner, Early Childhood Education teacher, administrator, and parent educator

To Register: Call the Amador Valley Adult School at: (925) 426-4280
For More Information: Visit us online at: www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted

Chess Challenge!



If you are new to chess or polishing your skills, come develop your understanding and enjoyment of the king of games! Lessons and play combine the skills of thinking and creativity with the thrill of sport. Classes include 20 minutes of instruction and 40 minutes of play. Boards and sets are provided. All levels are welcome.

The spring session of chess class will begin April 3 and end May 29, with no class on May 13. The fee is \$100 for the eight week class. Classes are from 3:00-4:00, Thursdays. You can join for a pro-rated fee at any time. Class minimum is ten and maximum is twenty.

Please go to Berkeleychessschool.org to register online, or call 510-843-0150 and speak to Judy or David.

Pleasanton Meadows Swim Team News



Pleasanton Meadows Swim Team is currently registering swimmers for the upcoming 2008 Summer swim season. Swimmers of all levels and abilities are welcome. We are a competitive team that is part of the Tri Valley Swim League. More information about the team and how to register can be found on our website at: Pleasantonsharks.com. Informational meetings will be held Monday, March 10th at 7:00 and Wednesday, April 2nd at 7:00. Both meetings will be held at Pleasanton Meadows Cabana Club, located at 4100 Churchill Drive. For more information; contact Mary Geasa at 925-846-2595.

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished reading. Thank you!



Sample personalized letter:

Date

To Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Corbett, & Assemblymember XX (3 separate letters),

As a parent of XX children in the Pleasanton Unified School District, I am very concerned with the proposed cuts to public education spending outlined in the Governor's proposed 2008/09 budget. I understand that this would mean a cut of at least \$4.5 million to my school district's budget.

I do not wish to see my children's education suffer due to increased class sizes, fewer counselors, outdated textbooks, or cuts in arts and music programs and other critical educational programs.

If your child receives special education, GATE or other specialized services, mention your concern with potential cuts in these critical services.

If your child has benefited from small class sizes (K-3 or 9th grade English & Math), mention the value of these class size reduction programs.

If your child benefited from the services of a school counselor, school nurse, classroom aide, or other support personnel, mention that you don't want to lose these services.

I do not wish to see my children's future success undermined because of the current budget crisis. I urge you to find a solution that does not jeopardize the future of my children.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

The Governor's Budget Flunks the Basic Test of Government: It Hurts Our Children.

The California State PTA is opposing the Governor's proposed budget for 2008-09 because it would harm the youngest and most vulnerable in our state: our children. The proposed budget would make across-the-board cuts to education, healthcare and other programs that have a direct impact on the safety and well-being of California's children. Below is a list of budget cuts as proposed by the Governor. As the budget gets debated in Sacramento, we must make sure our children's voices are heard.

Cuts to Schools

Given that California has among the lowest per-pupil funding and largest class sizes in the country, the Governor's proposed budget reductions would make a bad situation even worse, and they are fundamentally inconsistent with the state's goal of improving student achievement. The Governor is proposing a \$4.4 billion cut to school funding. This could result in the loss of tens of thousands of teachers and increased class sizes throughout the state, not to mention a further erosion of programs and the support system for students provided by special education aides, reading specialists, counselors and other support personnel.

Cuts to Foster Care Programs

Current foster care reimbursement rates are already woefully inadequate. The proposed cuts would ultimately hurt children and lead to fewer families taking in children who have been abused and neglected.

Cuts to Child Welfare Services

The proposed 10% reduction to funding for child welfare services would cause an accompanying loss of federal funds, thus compounding the negative impacts. These cuts would endanger the health and safety of thousands of neglected and abused children. It would mean the loss of more than a thousand social workers whom children now rely on to investigate reports of abuse and neglect, provide family maintenance services and reunite families.

Cuts to CalWORKs Program that Supports Low Income Families

Research links outcomes for children to the types of sanctions proposed by the administration. Enacting policies that drop children from CalWORKs and reduce the amount of resources available to their families would exacerbate the situation and reduce the likelihood of these families becoming self-sufficient.

Cuts to California Children's Services (CCS) Health Care Program

The proposed cuts to CCS could drastically affect the health care services provided to the severely ill children served by this program. Medical Therapy cuts would result in longer waiting lists for children to receive physical therapy. Delays in providing timely medical care to CCS children could result in greater emergency room usage.

Cuts to Medi-Cal Administrative Cuts

Nearly 160,000 Medi-Cal children would be required to re-apply for eligibility every three months, instead of the current annual requirement. While increasing the administrative burden, the budget proposal would at the same time reduce administrative funding. The result would be gaps in – or the loss of -- healthcare coverage for some of the most vulnerable and needy children in California.

Cuts to Juvenile Rehabilitation Facilities and Crime Prevention Grants

The proposed \$20 million reduction in funds for the Juvenile Probation and Camps program could mean closure or service reduction of county-operated residential facilities. Displaced wards would be placed in group homes, thereby increasing impacts on the foster care program. The \$11.9 million proposed cut to the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Grant program would cause gaps in the continuum of services that counties have established to prevent, control and treat juvenile offenders.

Cuts to Early Childhood Education/Child Care

The proposed \$198.9 million reduction for child development programs, as well as subsidy criteria changes, translates into nearly 106,000 children losing access to pre-school and after-school programs, and services that assist with disabilities.

Please take action today to give California's children a voice in Sacramento. Log onto www.capta.org – Flunk the Budget.

- **Let your State Assembly and Senate representatives know this budget is unacceptable.**
- **Forward this message to your PTA unit, council and district to alert parents and community members.**

Our children did not create this financial crisis. Their future should not be undermined because of it.

Earth Day T-Shirts



Design #1



Design #2

1. Choose from the two designs listed above.
2. All t-shirts are 100% cotton, which means they will shrink some, so order the next size up, please!
3. We will accept cash (exact amount only) and checks. Make checks payable to, '**Fairlands PTA**'.
4. Please note, any t-shirt 2X & larger, will cost an additional \$3.00 each.
5. T- shirts will be personalized with our school name only (*Fairlands Elementary School*)
6. ***This is not an Fundraiser!!!*** It is a chance to order Go Green t-shirts for the whole family to wear during Earth Day or anytime!
7. You can order as many t-shirts as you want. There is no tax included in the state of CA. The cost for 1 is \$6, 2@\$12, 3@\$18, 4@\$24 etc.
8. Deadline to order t-shirts is ***Tuesday, March 18, 2008. No late orders will be accepted.***
9. Drop off completed order forms with payment in the school office. Additional order forms are available in the school office, as well as a color picture of the shirts.
10. Please allow two to three weeks for delivery. Shirts will be delivered to the student's classroom listed below.

Please detach the bottom and drop off in the school office.



Child Sizes

Size	Qty.	Cost	Total
S		\$6	
M		\$6	
L		\$6	

Adult Sizes

Size	Qty.	Cost	Total
S		\$6	
M		\$6	
L		\$6	
XL		\$6	
2X		\$9	
3X		\$9	



Child Sizes

Size	Qty.	Cost	Total
S		\$6	
M		\$6	
L		\$6	

Adult Sizes

Size	Qty.	Cost	Total
S		\$6	
M		\$6	
L		\$6	
XL		\$6	
2X		\$9	
3X		\$9	

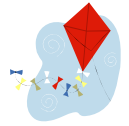
Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____




Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____ Room Number: _____



March 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Library: Week A	3 Read Across America	4 Assembly – Mobile Ed	5 Environmental Awareness/Go Green Meeting 9:30am in MPR 	6	7 Principal's Coffee, 8:30am, MPR 	8
9  Daylight Savings Time Begins Library: Week B	10	11 Agenda items due to Executive Board by 3pm	12 Fairlands Flyer Article Deadline PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:30am Jump Rope For Heart 3:10-4pm	13 Minimum Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences	14 Minimum Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences	15
16 Library: Week A	17 Science Fun Fair Projects Due	18 Science Fun Fair Student Interviews Day PTA Meeting, 7:00pm, MPR	19 Science Fun Fair @ the Fairgrounds	20	21 No School, Spring Break Begins	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
← SPRING BREAK →						
30 Library: Week B	31 School Resumes					

April 2008

- 1 Original Works Art orders due
- 2 Environmental Awareness/Go Green Meeting 9:30am in MPR
- 7 Assembly - California Wild Animals
- 8-9 Assembly - Revolution (5th Grade Only)
- 8 Agenda items due to Executive Board by 3pm
- 9 PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:30am
- 11 Rummage Sale Drop Off, MPR (tentative)
- 12 Rummage Sale, MPR (tentative)
- 14 Spring Book Fair Begins
- 15 **PTA Meeting**, 7:00pm in MPR (Elections)
- 18 Multi-Cultural Night, MPR
- 23 Fairlands Flyer Article Deadline

May 2008

- 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 9 Principal's Coffee, 8:30am, MPR
- 12-13 Assembly - Walk Thru California (4th Grade only)
- 13 Agenda items due to Executive Board by 3pm
- 13-15 Book Swap
- 14 PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:30am
- 20 **PTA Meeting**, 7:00pm in MPR (Elections)
- 21 Fairlands Flyer Article Deadline
- 26 No School, Memorial Day Holiday
- 29 Open House