



Fairlands Flyer

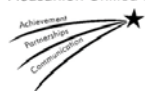
Above and Beyond... The Sky's the Limit

The Fairlands Flyer is prepared, published, and distributed by the Fairlands PTA.

March 2009



Pleasanton Unified School District



Fairlands Elementary School

PTA

everychild.one voice.™

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/
Jodie Vashistha, PTA President

Fairlands Flyer

fairlandsflyer@yahoo.com
Mary Briones, Newsletter Editor

Coming Up in March

- 4: EA/Go-Green 9:30am, MPR
- 6: Family Fun Night, 6:30-9:00pm, MPR
- 8: Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools Kick-Off Rally, 4-5:30pm
- 12-13: Minimum Days – Conferences
- 13: Science Project due in MPR
(see calendar for details)
- 16: Science Projects Interviews, 8:15-3pm
- 17: Science Fair at Fairgrounds from 6pm-9pm
- 18: Jump Rope for Heart, 3:10-4:00pm
- 18: PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:30am
- 18: Fairlands Flyer article deadline
- 20: Principal's Coffee, 8:30am, MPR
- 21: Fairlands Family Fun Run, 9am
- 24: PTA Meeting, 7:00pm, MPR

Respect...

If you have some respect for people as they are, you can be more effective in helping them to become better than they are.

~John W. Gardner



A Message From the Principal

Respect

During the months of March and April, we focus on the character trait of Respect at Fairlands and in our Pleasanton community. I came across the Family Respect Checklist, which is a great tool for discussing and encouraging respectful behavior at home. I hope you find it helpful:

Family Respect Checklist

- ✓ Do we show that we care about each other's feelings?
- ✓ Is everyone treated as equally important in the family?
- ✓ Do we listen to one another without interruption?
- ✓ Do we listen attentively to each other's stories and ideas? Or are they dismissed, laughed at, or criticized?
- ✓ Do we avoid put-downs in our family?
- ✓ Do we protect playmates at our house from teasing from others?

We are experiencing unprecedented budgetary struggles in our country, state, and district. Over the past few weeks we have heard from individuals who have expressed their heartfelt concern for our district and the programs that have produced highly successful student achievement. As various individuals and groups have addressed the board to share the impact of these programs on our students, it is unfathomable to think of cutting any of them! Our district has done an amazing job offering a well-rounded, academic program for all students, without a parcel tax. Unfortunately, with the current funding the state has projected it is not possible for us to maintain our current program.

As was pointed out at the board meeting on February 24th, "It is not the people in the room who need convincing. It is those who are not in the room." Many of those individuals have not set foot in a public school in years. They are not familiar with the standards and the accountability

we now have as a part of our educational system.

In the coming weeks, we as a community need to come together and respectfully talk to these individuals. We need to understand their concerns, work to clarify the facts and correct the misinformation. I invite our Fairlands Community to open the lines of communication while you are on the baseball fields, in the gym, at the grocery store or where ever you may be. The Pleasanton Weekly Blog is a prime example of individuals disregarding respectful conversation, questioning and interchange. I do not encourage people to participate in the banter that is taking place there. Instead, reach out and talk to your neighbor. Invite your children to share their current math, reading or science textbooks with neighbors. They may be amazed at what your children are learning and what they can do. Our students' intelligence, wit, humor, and academic abilities are phenomenal!

It is my privilege to work with your children, the Fairlands' staff and our wonderful community. Together we can get through the challenges ahead. I invite you to bring a buddy or a neighbor to our next **Principal's Coffee on March 20th**. The Pleasanton USD Web page is updated daily with facts and information about the budget, projected cuts, questions and answers, workshops, and meeting dates. Our school board invites all citizens in Pleasanton to e-mail their questions, opinions and concerns to them. Together we can solve the challenges ahead. Above and Beyond... The skies the limit at Fairlands School!

Kimberley Michels, Principal



Join us for coffee and conversation at the Principal's Coffee in the MPR at 8:30am on Friday, March 20th.

School News and Events

A Message From the Assistant Principal

It is hard to believe that the 2008-09 school year is nearly two-thirds of the way completed! March is when the days get longer and the flowers begin to bloom. It is also the time of year when Fairlands' students participate in some very important writing assessments. On Tuesday, March 3rd, 4th graders will take the California Standards Writing test. The make up test will be given the following day for any students who are absent. Since the Writing test is a secure document, please remind your child not to talk about the subject or contents until everyone has had the opportunity to take the test. We want to ensure that the testing conditions remain fair and standardized for all students who participate. The type of writing that students will do when they take the state writing test is called an "on-demand prompt".

It is important for all students to develop the ability to write to on-demand prompts. More and more, businesses, organizations, and educational institutions use on-demand prompts to evaluate the ability of individuals to express themselves clearly and logically, given a relatively short amount of time, using writing as the medium. The writing samples will be scored by readers at Educational Testing Service (ETS) and will appear on the STAR results forms that will be sent home in August. You will see the score for the Writing test under the "Writing Applications" section of the results.

The 4th grade students will not be the only ones taking an on-demand writing assessment during the week of March 2nd. All 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade students will complete an on-demand writing



assessment as well. Students in 2nd and 3rd grades will be given "one day" to write and 5th graders will complete the writing in "one sitting". The writing assessments will then be scored by teachers using the "on-demand" rubrics that were developed at the district level earlier this year. Teachers will not score their own papers. Instead, they will work with other teachers to assess the student writing. The District writing assessment is a valuable part of our writing instruction. The on-demand assessments allow us to monitor progress, through the grades, that students are making in writing, especially in their ability to respond to an on-demand prompt.

Unfortunately, due to the budget situation this year, no results will be sent home to parents, and the score will not be entered on the report card as a district score. Instead, teachers have been asked to use the results of the writing assessment to help inform their writing instruction. The expectation is that teachers will use the results of the scoring to inform their plans for instruction in writing for the remainder of this school year. The main objective of the writing assessments will be to provide information that will help teachers better understand their students' areas of strength as well as their challenges in writing.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information. I can be reached at rgorton@pleasanton.k12.ca.us or 426-4210 ext. 4052.

Rich Gorton, Vice Principal

Lost and Found

Our school lost and found is located near the entrance to the Multipurpose Room. It seems that we always have a vast collection of very nice coats, lunch boxes, sweatshirts and sweaters that have been left out on the blacktop or around campus. Unfortunately, we collect so many items that we cannot store them all for long. Please make sure you check the lost and found if you have any missing items. Unclaimed items in the lost and found are bagged and sent to charitable organizations on a regular basis. Generally, we will hold items for two to four weeks before they are donated. Once the lost and found hanging rack and bins are full, we have no choice but to recycle some of the older items in the collection! We will donate all items on **Friday, March 27th**. Don't delay...if you are missing some items check the lost and found TODAY. Thank you.



The following students were chosen by their teachers for Pizza with the Principal for the character trait of Self-Discipline:

Kindergarten

Dean: **Aadithyaa Sridhar Baskari, Annabelle Harber**
 Fracisco: **Majida Jaouni, Ryan Fortani**
 Green: **Kenna Asmussen, Kotoha Togami**
 O'Sullivan: **Ellie McElroy, Daniel Zhai**
 Rosa: **Andrew Saah, Kaitlyn Rae**
 Shelley: **Luke Scanlon, Afreen Shameem**

1st Grade

Atkins: **Audrey Googins, Mohammed Shazin**
 Esse: **Andrew Kwon, Sophia Moore**
 Ferrario: **Laasya Gadamsetti, Krish Chaturvedi**
 Rainey: **Kumail Yousafi, Lindsay Wang**
 Sanchez: **Eric Huang, Sana Khan**
 Talbot: **Gloria Xie, Ryan Xu**

2nd Grade

Albrigo: **Asim Biswal, Taylor See**
 Chase: **Raymond Mena, Rhea Shah**
 Eastman: **Katalina Garber, Makayla Rios**
 Gerstenberg: **Aaron Guerra, Shriya Padigepati**
 Hagstrom: **Bryan Hao, Purvaj Kandula**
 Klopatek: **Emily Tincher, Macey Willis**
 Russell: **Emily Fisher, Audrey Simmons**

3rd Grade

Boster: **Nadine Cobb, Linda Chen**
 Cullison: **Demetrius Williams, Jeremy Lawson**
 Dalesio/Racette: **Jared Caldwell, Jin Young Bae**
 Eastman: **Lizzie Chiou, Vivian Chu**
 Griffith: **Mazen Jaouni, Briana Page**
 Throne: **Calvin Chou, Saloni Wasnik**

4th Grade

Crawley: **Hannah Kim, Caitlyn Sigua, Andrew Lawton**
 Hansen: **Danielle Domagas, Sam Tincher, Desiree McGill**
 Norem: **John Lee, Ria Singla, Aliseena Yousafi**

4th/5th Combination Class

Highfill: **Seth Girvan, Caroline Clark, Michael Azuma**

5th Grade

Mecozzi: **Celestine Co, Drew Highfill, Amy Schwanhausser**
 Romagna: **Jasmine Benito, Cyina Evans, Matthew Briones**

School News and Events

Hart Middle School "A" Period Choir



"Do you love to sing? Do you want to perform for an audience? Hart Middle School "A" period choir is now available to all incoming 6th graders! Because 6th grade doesn't have an extra elective available in their regular schedule, we are providing a choir before school. If starting the day with song sounds like fun, contact the Hart counseling department and add "A" period choir to your schedule! You're going to be glad you did!"

Sharon Surrena
English 8
Vocal Music
Music Wheel

For Parents of Students Entering Sixth Grade Next Year

This year's 5th grade students are in the process of planning their 6th grade school year. Following are some important dates for students entering middle school in 2009/10.

Harvest Park Middle School:

- March 10: Incoming 6th grade parent information night, 6 p.m., Harvest Park Multipurpose Room
- March 11: Parent Laptop information night, 6 p.m., Harvest Park Multipurpose Room
- March 13: Schedules due in the Walnut Grove Office

PPIE Update



Do you have a project or program that is short on funding? PPIE Foundation can help! PPIE Foundation Student Grant applications are now being accepted for the second cycle of funding. Funding is available in amounts of 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. Application packets 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 10, 2009.** If you have questions about the grant process, you can contact Becky Simons', Fairlands PPIE Ambassador at pbsimons@comcast.net or 846-8146.

This year's **deadline for Education Grant applications is April 21, 2009.** Education Grants are available to teachers and faculty of PUSD in amounts up to \$2500. PPIE Foundation Education Grant application packets may be obtained from the PPIE website, www.ppie.org. For more information, contact your PPIE Parent Ambassador, Becky Simons at pbsimons@comcast.net, or contact the PPIE office at mail@ppie.org.

Fairlands Jump Rope for Heart 2009

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2009
Time: 3:10 - 4:00pm
Permission Slip Due Date: Friday, February 27, 2009
Collections Due: Friday, March 13, 2009



It's time again for the Fairlands Elementary/American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart. As always, all our students are welcome to participate whether they collect donations or not. Kids get exercise, have fun, and further the cause of awareness and prevention of heart attack and stroke. The event is held after school and kids will need to be picked up at 4:00pm when the event ends.

In 2008, Fairlands Elementary was the #1 Jump Rope for Heart school in Alameda County. Over the last 6 years, our kids have collected more for the American Heart Association than any other school. The AHA uses this money to do critical research in heart and circulatory disease, support care for cardiac and stroke victims, and educate the public about ways to prevent heart attack, stroke, and related diseases.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with the event, please fill out the volunteer slip. Your child's permission slip is on the collection envelope.

Science Fair is Coming!



The Science Fair will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on **Tuesday, March 17, 2009 from 6pm-9pm. Projects are due in the MPR on Friday March 13 and can be dropped off during the following hours: 7:45am-9:00am, 12:30pm-2:00pm, and 4:00pm-5:00pm. Interviews will be held in the Multipurpose Room on Monday, March 16 from 8:15-3:00pm.**

If you would like to volunteer to interview our budding scientists, or to transport the science projects to and from the fairgrounds on Tuesday, March 17, contact Stacey Holder at sholder@pleasanton.k12.ca.us. Projects will be moved back to Fairlands Tuesday night immediately following event.

Stacey Holder
Science Specialist
sholder@pleasanton.k12.ca.us
925-426-4210 x 4039

PTA News and Events

A Message from the PTA President

Dear Fairlands Parents,

By now you are all aware of the devastating budget cuts that will affect our children's education. Our Fairlands PTA Executive Board has been working hard to make sure our school community has current facts regarding this sobering situation. The PUSD School Board will be holding a **public hearing on Wednesday, March 4 at 4:30** regarding a possible parcel tax. The final decision will be made by the School Board on Thursday, March 5 at 6pm. If the Board votes in favor of putting a parcel tax on the ballot, they will also need to determine if the measure will be included on a May or June ballot. Unfortunately, no matter how the board votes on March 4th, the school district is required to distribute pink slips on March 13th to all teachers and staff who may be laid off at the end of the school year as a result of budget cuts.

Many people at our meetings or when they see me on campus have asked, "What can I do about the budget crisis. How can I help?" The best thing I can suggest is to talk to your friends and neighbors who don't have kids in school. Make them aware of the severity of the situation. Talk about how their home values are tied to the excellent scores our schools have achieved. For a parcel tax initiative to be successful, we need the support of our community members who don't have children in school. It has been said that 60% of the households in Pleasanton don't have school age children.

The other thing I strongly suggest is to log onto the **Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools** website, www.savepleasantonschools.org. The Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools has been formed with the goal of facilitating a successful parcel tax initiative to protect the quality of our children's education. On their website you can register your email, volunteer, donate, read the PUSD budget FAQs, and click on the link to register to vote or to check on your voter registration. If you aren't eligible to vote, you can still volunteer to help. For this initiative to be successful, we need to come together as a community. Please don't rely on someone else to take care of it. This issue is too important, and it isn't going to go away. We owe it to our children to fight for the quality of their education. There will be four members of the Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools at the **Family Fun Night on Friday, March 6th in the MPR** if you are interested in speaking with them regarding the PUSD budget crisis, volunteering to help, and donating funds to the effort.

At our next **PTA meeting on March, 24th**, we will be discussing and voting as a membership on whether the Fairlands PTA will donate funds to the Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools. As a PTA, an important part of our mission is the advocacy for quality education for all children in Pleasanton. This is a goal supported by the Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools.

After all this talk about the budget crisis, do you need to have fun? I've got just the event for you. The PTA will be having our annual **Family Fun Night on Friday, March 6th in the MPR**. It's a great time to hang out and relax, play some Bingo, and enjoy the wonderful school community that we have at Fairlands. Hope to see you there!

Jodie Vashistha, PTA President

Latest Budget Facts

- At the February 24 meeting of the PUSD Board of Trustees, the Board identified potential program reductions and the personnel who might be affected by those reductions.
- For more information on these reductions go to <http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/BoardofTrustees/Downloads/FullAgendas/fafeb2409.pdf>
- Reductions are identified to address the anticipated \$4 million deficit in the budget for the current schools year and an additional \$4.7 million deficit by the end of the 2009/10 year.
- Personnel identified in the reductions will receive a notice of possible layoff prior to March 15.
- The Board then has until May 15 to continue to analyze the budget and make final decisions as to program and personnel reductions. At that time, employees who are still affected would receive final layoff notices.
- **The number of employees affected by Tuesday night's decision include 188 certificated employees, 89 classified employees, and 18 administrators and managers. These include both full- and part-time positions.**

Important Meetings

- **Wednesday, March 4, 4:30 p.m**
- PUSD public hearing on possible parcel tax initiative
- Location: Amador Valley High School MPR
- No action will be taken on March 4.
- **Thursday, March 5, beginning at 6 p.m**
Additional Board meeting is scheduled at same location.
Board will take action on additional possible budget and personnel reductions and make a decision about a possible parcel tax initiative.
- Both meetings will be webcast live (not telecast), recorded and rebroadcast at a later date. These changes to the previously announced meeting schedule have occurred because the District was just notified by Alameda County of the possibility of consolidating an approved local initiative with the May 19 state-wide election.
- The county has changed the deadline for filing a parcel tax initiative to 5 p.m. on March 6. By the end of the second meeting, the PUSD Board will decide whether to call for a parcel tax initiative and, if doing so, for which election date-- either May 19 or June 2.

Kick-Off Rally



www.SavePleasantonSchools.org

The **Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools** is having an Old-Fashioned Kick-Off Rally, this Sunday, March 8th from 4-5:30pm at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Below is the link to the flyer:

<http://www.savepleasantonschools.org/files/RallyFlyerFinal022409.pdf>

PTA News and Events

FAIRLANDS STUDENTS NEED YOU!!



Are you looking for a way to help support our students at Fairlands? If so, we've got exciting and rewarding options for you! Join our PTA Board for the 2009-2010 school year! All positions are open, but we are particularly interested in people who would like to know more about the following positions: President, Executive Vice-President, Financial Secretary and Auditor. You can find the PTA Executive Board Job Descriptions at www.fairlands.com/pta. Feel free to contact one of us with questions and/or requests for more information. The Nominating Committee would love to chat with you, so give us a call, send an email, or grab us around campus!

Thanks for your continued support of our students through the Fairlands PTA.

Casey Pozzi: 426-1552/pozzi9724@sbcglobal.net

[sbcglobal.net](mailto:pozzi9724@sbcglobal.net)

Jeanne Kelly: 417-2207/jeanne_kelly@sbcglobal.net

[sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeanne_kelly@sbcglobal.net)

Adrienne Herz: 485-9401/ladherz@sgcglobal.net

[sgcglobal.net](mailto:ladherz@sgcglobal.net)

Fairlands Spirit Wear



Just a reminder there are still some Fairlands Spirit Wear in stock. We currently have most sizes of the pigment dyed shirts, limited sizes of raglan style shirts and sweatshirts and we still have the exclusive Fairlands baseball caps and CA Distinguished School license plate frames. Order forms are available in the front office.

- Fairlands Hats \$14
- License Plate Frame \$5
- Fairlands shirts \$14
- Fairlands Sweatshirts \$26

If you have any questions, contact Becky Simons at pbsimons@comcast.net or 846-8146.

Fairlands, Family, Fun, Fitness!



Come to the **Fairlands Family Fun Run, March 21**, and show your support for Fairlands and Fitness! The Fairlands Family Fun Run is a 2 mile run/walk beginning at the Fairlands black top, continuing down the green belt, and finishing back on the black top. No one is too slow, too old, or too young to participate. Strollers are welcome, bikes are discouraged (unless your 3 year old won't get into the stroller). Warm-ups begin at 8:30am with the run starting at 9:00am. There will be a raffle to benefit Fairlands held after the race, and each pre-registered run/walker will receive a T-shirt. Look for sign up sheets in Friday folders and on the Yahoo Group. Also, the class with the most participation from each grade will receive new kickballs! Will your class be the one????

Coming Soon: The "New to You" Book Swap!



The Fairlands PTA will host its annual **Book Swap April 7-9**. This is a great opportunity for students to swap books with other students. We'll even host a side swap for you book-loving parents! So, start looking through your bookcases now and set aside books you've already read and could bring to the swap. Once we've sorted the books, you'll have a chance to choose from all the donations—books that will be "New to You!"

So, if you love to read and have books at home you've finished, box them up for the Swap. We especially need chapter books and novels, so ask your middle school and high school students and friends for books they could donate. Together we'll create a Book Swap teeming with hundreds and hundreds of books that will be New To You! More information will come home through student mail: start collecting your donation books now!

Save the Date for the Giant Kid Stuff Sale!

This year we will be having a "GIANT KID STUFF SALE" to benefit Fairlands' technology fund and we are hoping that every family will pitch in! The sale will take place on **Saturday May 9th**, and all Fairlands PTA member families will have a chance to shop the advance sale before we open to the public. This year's sale will not be a rummage sale, but instead we will focus on items for babies and kids only!

We are looking for toys, games, action figures, dolls, picture books/chapter books, music CDs, videos, DVDs, video games, ALL sports equipment, sports safety gear, outdoor play equipment (Little Tykes type play structures, basketball nets, etc.), bikes, scooters, battery operated vehicles, etc. All really small toys or toys with many pieces (Polly Pocket, Little Pet Shop, Matchbox cars, Lego etc) should be gathered into ziploc type bags for the sale. **All items must be clean and in working order - new batteries NOT necessary as long as you know the toy works. No stuffed animals!**

We are also looking for baby equipment—strollers, bouncy seats, exersaucers, high chairs, cribs, toddler beds, changing tables, rocking chairs, Baby Bjorns, soft books/board, baby monitors, backpacks, toys, all infant equipment. **All items must be clean and in working condition. No car seats, mattresses, blankets or bedding please.**

There will be a class to class competition for who brings in the most items (larger items will count as 5!) with a class prize for the lower and upper grades as well as a prize for your teacher if your class wins!!!

Get out some boxes and have your kids start clearing out their rooms, your family room, the garage- now is the time to get rid of all the stuff you are no longer using or playing with. Please let your neighbors, friends and family know as well so they can add their items to your boxes! We are hoping that each child in the school will find at least 10 items, clean them up and give them to us to help make the sale a big success. Clean and less cluttered houses, old toys finding new homes instead of a landfill and money for Fairlands technology- it is a win-win-win! You can drop off your donations in the Multi-Purpose Room on after school on Friday, May 8. **Donations are tax deductible. No clothing items please!**

Please contact Lisa Thordsen if you would like to help with the sale or if you have any questions about items you would like to donate. A more detailed flyer will be sent home soon. Lisa Thordsen lisa_thordsen@yahoo.com or 918-1823.

Multi-Cultural Night

Mark Your Calendars! You won't want to miss this popular event. The Fairlands PTAMulticultural Night has been rescheduled for **Friday, May 15th**. The event will include culturally diverse food, displays, performances and crafts by Fairlands students. Possible performers please note - performances this year will be limited to dance and martial arts demonstrations. Watch for the flyer to come home in April if you would like sign-up to participate.

PTA News and Events



Welcome to the Green Page... March Edition



Recently, Fairlands EA/GG committee held its, 3rd Annual Writing & Poster contest. We received fifty entries in all. All entries were judged on their originality, creativity, and neatness. First place winners took home, movie tickets or Jamba Juice gift cards. All other participants received a mini packet of play foam. All entries will be displayed on the Go Green hall wall. Thanks and congratulations to all of our students who participated in this year's contest. Also, a special thanks to our judges, Wendy Pottgeiser, John Clatworthy, and Mary Skipper. And the winners are...

- **Kindergarten: Trisha Jaishankar**
- **1st Grade: Fatima Suratwala**
- **2nd Grade: Purvaj Kandula**
- **3rd Grade: Vishnu Kalidas**
- **4th Grade: Nitish Padavala**
- **5th Grade: Megan Do**

We also held our first 'Green Recycle Day' of the year. We received several cell phones, laser printers, but, mostly inkjet printer cartridges. We appreciate all of the donations.

What happens to recycled inkjet cartridges? Hewlett-Packard (HP) and other companies are creating new cartridges. Cartridges are de-inked, and include metals, foams and plastic. After removing the leftover ink, the cartridges are shredded and sold for use in shipping containers, auto parts and carpet fibers, to name a few.

Fairlands will gladly accept new or old cartridges in the front office during regular school hours. The school earns \$\$\$ and together we can save valuable resources.

Go Green is planning a "**Garden Day**", on **Friday March 13th** for all go green kids. We hope to open the garden for all students, every other Friday (weather permits.) If you would like to volunteer to help in the garden, please contact Ruth Dessouky.

St. Patrick's Day is fast approaching! This year, mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 17th, for a fun-filled afternoon of GREEN games and plenty of fun for everyone.

The Wal-Mart Kids Recycling Challenge is going strong. We have successfully recycled, 139, sixty-gallon collection bags of plastic bags... keep them coming till March 27th!

Next Go Green Meeting... Wednesday, March 4th, MPR @ 9:30.

Tip of the day: If it's not too far, don't **drive a car!**

Ruth Dessouky & Kathy Bean
rsdjjj@yahoo.com

Make A Difference Week Wrap Up

Our February Make A Difference Week event supporting the Tri Valley Haven was another great success this year thanks to the generosity and kindness shown by our Fairlands families. The Haven provides safe shelter and beds for almost 50 women and children surviving domestic abuse in our area and retains a full occupancy year round. A special thank you goes to the students who were good sports and wore their "Ask me why I need diapers" stickers home. This fun attention getter generated almost 800 diapers in all! Numerous other items were also collected which were valued at over \$800 in much needed goods for the shelter. Finally, many thanks and appreciation goes to parent helpers **Ruth Dessouky, Sandy Benito, Beth Pineda, and Big John Clatworthy** as well as student helpers **Jasmine Dessouky, Jamal Dessouky, Julian Dessouky, Alex Bean, Griffin Bean, Joshua Pineda, Alex Benito, and John Clatworthy.** Fairlands, you rock!

2009 PTA Talent Show a Great Success!

Congratulations to all the participants of our recent Talent Show! Nearly 80 students performed before a standing-room-only crowd and it was an amazing show! Singing, dancing, acting, playing instruments and more: our performers enthusiastically shared their acts to the wild applause of parents, students and friends.

Huge thanks go out to **Jodie Vashistha**, Co-Chair of the Talent Show, for her countless hours of planning, rehearsal and technical support: it's always a joy, Jodie! Thank you to **Adrienne Herz** for supporting us with endless childcare, paperwork and performance set-up - your friendship creates the opportunity for us to do what we do. Thank you to **Ann Rodriguez and Nancy Clevenger** who handled every question and concern in the office with patience and generosity. Enormous thanks to our **Principal, Kim Michels** - a constant supporter of the Talent Show - and our **Vice Principal Richard Gorton**, whose hosting duties were both generous and kind. Thank you to the PTA for supporting the performing arts at Fairlands! Thank you one and all!

Finally, thank you to the students and parents who participated in the Talent Show. We really appreciate the kids' interest and genuinely thank the parents who shuffled schedules and appointments to make their kids' dreams a reality. It was a great adventure and we wish you all well.

You Rock!
 Kristin Werder; Talent Show Co-Chair

Thanks to our Volunteer Bakers!

Thank you to the following volunteer bakers who made delicious treats for our last PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 17th. Thank you **Megan Kenning, Dawn Pettey, Heather Stretch, Laura Borges, Coleen Ito-Azuma, Becky Simons, Laurie Whiteland, Deborah McElroy, Kelly Peterson, Lorie Priess, Mabel Lawton, and Mary Skipper** for generously volunteering your time and baking talents. Thank you also to our wonderful **Hospitality Committee Chairs Lorie Priess, Megan Kenning and Casey Pozzi** for setting up the coffee service. It was a delicious accompaniment to the incredible bounty of baked treats.

March 2, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians of Pleasanton Unified School District Students:

From time to time, all of our schools have a need to use pesticides. Chronic ant, spider and yellow jacket infestations need to be dealt with quickly to ensure our sites remain safe for kids and staff. Weed abatement is necessary, not only to keep our sites attractive and preserve our investment in sports turf, but also to insure healthy, safe play areas.

“The Healthy Schools Act of 2000” requires *annual* notifications to parents, guardians and school district employees about the use of pesticides on their school sites. The Act requires all of the following:

The school district designee is to provide an annual list of all pesticide products that might be used on a school site. This product list includes over-the-counter pesticides available at retail outlets, but may not include certain products exempted by law.

Parents, guardians and school district employees will be afforded the opportunity to register with the school district to be notified of pesticide applications at their site 72 hours prior to application. (Emergency pesticide applications may prevent this 72-hour advance notification.)

The school district designee is to post warning signs at the site to receive pesticides 24 hours prior to application. Those warning signs are to remain in place for 72 hours after the application.

Pesticide application records will be maintained a minimum of 4 years and will be made available to the public upon request.

Provided for your use on the reverse of this notification is a listing of pesticide products that *might* be used at a school site during calendar year 2009. If you wish to be notified this year, prior to pesticide application(s), please notify your school by email or visit your school site office to sign up for this service.

The Pest Management Program and strategy utilized in the Pleasanton Unified School District focuses on using the least toxic, effective pesticides available. The District does not use nor authorize the use of Category I (highly toxic) pesticides. However, *all* pesticide that is used on school district property will be used lawfully, sparingly and judiciously to avoid risk to people, property and the environment.

Sincerely,

Larry Lagatta, Director
Maintenance, Operations & Transportation

The Healthy Schools Act of 2000 requires that all California school districts **annually** notify parents and guardians of pesticides they expect to apply during the year. The following is a listing of the pesticide products our contractors, the City of Pleasanton, or we *might use* in some or all schools this year:

Pesticide Brand Name	Active ingredient	Use
HERBICIDE:		
Round Up Pro	Glyphosate	Weed Control
Turflon Ester	Triclopyr	Weed Control
Surflan	Oryzalin	Weed Control
Ronstar	Oxadiazon	Weed Control
Speed Zone (Southern)	Carfentrazone-ethyl	Weed Control
Weed n Feed	2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic	Weed Control
Pro Scape	Triclophy/clopyralid	Weed Control
Fusilade	Fluazifop-P-Bulyl	Weed Control
INSECTICIDE:		
Precor	Methoprene	Ants, spiders, fleas
Tempo 20WP	Cyfluthrin	Ants (o/s only)
Prelude	Permethrin	Cockroaches
Metaldehyde 3.5G	Metaldehyde	Snail and slug bait*
Max Force	Hydremethylon	Roach bait*
Knox Out	Diazinon	Wasp bait*
Eco Exempt D	Plant Essential Oils	Bees

* In most cases, we are using self-contained baits that when used properly do not require listing or prior notifications.

RODENTICIDE:

Wilco II Gopher Bait*	Indancrone, Chlorphenyl	Gophers
Contract Bait*	Bromadiolone	Rats and mice
Wilco	Strychnine	Gophers

* We are using self-contained baits that when used properly do not require listing or prior notifications.

For additional information on these pesticides and pesticide use reduction, go to the Department of Pesticide Regulation's website: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>.

Parent Education Classes in March, 2009



1, 2, 3 Magic: Discipline for Children Ages 3-9

Class meets: Tues 3/31 & 4/7/09 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pleasanton Middle School Library

Instructors: Cliff Crain & Liz Hannigan, co-directors of the Center for Creative Living

Building the 40 Assets®: What Parents Can Do

Class meets: Wed 3/25/09 7:00-9:00 p.m. Harvest Park Middle School Room A-4

Instructor: Jennifer Roush, Foothill H. S. counselor, 40 Assets Task Force Coordinator

Ergonomics Education for Students: A Class for Parents

Class meets: Mon 3/2/09 7:00-8:00 p.m. Amador Valley High School Library

Instructor: Ruth Loewenhardt, PTA Wellness Chair, ergonomics consultant (*Partnership with Pleasanton PTA Council*)

Focus on Teens: Communicating with Your Adolescent

Class meets: Thurs 3/5, 3/12 & 3/19/09 7:00-9:00 p.m. Harvest Park Middle School Room B-18

Instructor: Bessie Reddick-Pierce, international parent trainer, and local parent educator

Parenting Tools for Positive Behavior Change

Class meets: Wed 3/18-5/13/09 (no class 4/15/09) 6:45-9:00 p.m. Harvest Park Middle School Rm. B-18

Instructor: Tom Dozier, owner and primary instructor for Guaranteed Parent Training
(*\$10 materials fee payable to instructor*)

Parenting Your Aging Parent

Class meets: Wed 3/18, 4/22, & 5/13/09, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Amador Valley High School Library Conf. B

Instructor: Ruth Gasten, parent educator for over 35 years

So, This is Normal Too...Handling Challenging Toddler & Preschool Behaviors

Class meets: Tues 3/10, 3/17, & 3/24/09 6:30-8:30 p.m. Walnut Grove Elementary Library

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

Teaching Empathy – Raising Compassionate Children in a Self-Absorbed World

Class meets: Thurs 3/5/09 6:30-8:30 p.m. Walnut Grove Elementary School Library

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

The Power of Green and Red Language: Choose

Class meets: Mon 3/30/09 6:30-8:30 p.m. Amador Valley High School Library

Instructor: John Tompkins, counselor for individuals, families, teachers, and work teams

They Grow Up So Fast!

Class meets: Tues 3/10 & 3/17/09 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pleasanton Middle School Room 801

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

Understanding Autism: Parenting a Child with Autism/Asperger's Disorder

Class meets: Tues 3/3/09 6:30-8:30 p.m. Harvest Park Middle School Room B-19

Instructor: Christopher Brown, M. A., MFT intern, private practice, school counselor

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



March 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 EA/Go Green Meeting, 9:30am in MPR 	5	6 Family Fun Night, 6:30pm-9:00pm in MPR	7
8 The Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools Kick-Off Rally, 4-5:30pm, Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy	9	10	11	12 Minimum Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences	13 Minimum Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences Science Fair Projects Drop off in MPR: 7:45am-9:00am, 12:30pm-2:00pm, 4:00pm-5:00pm	14
15	16 Science Projects Interviews in MPR 8:15am-3:00pm	17 District Science Fair at the Fairgrounds, 6pm-9pm	18 Jump Rope for Heart Pick up Science Fair Projects after School PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:30am Fairlands Flyer Article Deadline	19	20 Principal's Coffee, 8:30am in MPR	21 1 st Annual Family Fun Run, 9:00am
22	23	24 PTA Meeting , 7:00pm in MPR	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2009

- 1: EA/Go-Green 9:30am, MPR
- 6-7: Assembly – *Walk Thru the American Revolution* (5th Grade)
- 7: Book Swap Drop-Off
- 8-9: Book Swap, MPR
- 8: PTA Exec. Board Meeting, 9:30am
- 10: No School, Spring Break
- 13-17: No School, Spring Break
- 20: School resumes
- 20-24: Earth Week
- 21: **PTA Meeting, 7:00pm, MPR** -Elections
- 22: Fairlands Flyer article deadline
- 27: Book Fair (through May 1st)
- TBD: STAR/CAT Testing (2-5)

May 2009

- 1: Book Fair continues
- 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 8-9: Kids' Equipment and Toy Sale (proceeds to benefit Fairlands Technology)
- 15: Principal's Coffee, 8:30am
- 15: Multi-Cultural Night
- 19: PTA Meeting, 7pm in MPR
- 25: No School, Memorial Day