



The FPHE Educator

Education News from Our Community

Volume 3

Fourth Quarter
2009

Annual Campaign for Education

Help Schools Thrive - Give \$55!

Donations to FPHE's 2010 Annual Campaign reduce the impact budget cuts have on the 11 Pleasant Hill public schools.

Your donation will directly benefit language arts, math, science, and enrichment programs.

Donate at www.fphe.org

Or mail a check with the coupon on the back of this newsletter.

Strong schools build a vibrant and prosperous community.

The Goal: To have 1000 people donate \$55

Donors who give \$55 or more will receive a FPHE window decal. If \$55 is not possible, please donate what you can.

Thank you for your commitment to education and our community.

Inside this issue:

Note from the Mayor	2
Dine Out for Education!	2
CPHS Crab Feed	3
Feeder Pattern Info	3
FPHE Wins Award	3
Winners of The Bee	4
2010 FPHE Donors	5
Campaign Status	5
General FPHE Info	6

Mark your Calendar

- Jan. 28 PHE Sci. Fair
- Feb. 2 Kindergarten Registration at all schools except Sequoia Elementary
- Feb. 6 CPHS Crab Feed
- Feb. 9-12 PHE Book Fair
- Feb. 11 Gregory Gardens Science Fair
- Feb. 18 CPHS Junior Parent Meeting
- Feb. 20 Sequoia Elem. Auction
- Feb. 25 Sequoia Elem. Science Fair
- Mar. 6 Strandwood dinner dance & auction
- Mar. 11 CPHS 8th Grade Parent Meeting
- Apr. 17 PHE Spring Gala
- July 9-11 CPHS 50th Anniversary Weekend

A Note from Our New Mayor

I'm settling into my new role as Pleasant Hill Mayor, and one of the things I have been asked to do is write an article for the FPHE newsletter. I'm thrilled to do so... for a number of reasons.

First, it goes without saying how extremely important education is, not only to those currently enrolled in school, but also to the rest of the community. There is a new term in government finance circles: vending machine economics. What this means is many want to pick and choose what services they want their taxes to support. I'll acknowledge the concerns of many that tax dollars should support needed services, but I also want to state my strong conviction that education benefits everyone, whether there are children in the household who currently attend school, or those who don't have a direct connection to school. We all benefit from a well-educated society. Another way of looking at it is there are tremendous negative consequences to each of us when children aren't in school and aren't being educated: delinquency, crime, lack of intellectual capacity to solve difficult social, political and civic issues.

The second reason is much closer to my heart. I'm a product, and beneficiary, of Pleasant Hill schools: Gregory Gardens Elementary, Valley View (Intermediate) Middle, and College Park High School. I'm very proud of my "alumni" status with these schools, and I want to see every school in Pleasant Hill, public or private, be able to offer our children the excellent education I and so many others were so fortunate to receive. And that's not just "book learning"; that's also sports, music, drama, journalism, art, and other extra-curricular activities that are so important to an overall and well-rounded educational experience.

I'll be sending off my check for \$55 soon to the FPHE financial campaign, and I encourage all Pleasant Hill residents to contribute to the cause at whatever level you are able to do so. I know these are difficult economic times; but as we've seen so recently with the earthquake in Haiti, a \$5 contribution can make a big difference when we all contribute something.

Karen Mitchoff, Mayor, Pleasant Hill

DINE OUT FOR EDUCATION!

(LUNCH, DINNER OR TAKE-OUT)

TUESDAYS

Between January 26 - March 2

Support Pleasant Hill public schools by dining at the following restaurants

**Get your flier at www.fphe.org.
Present the flier and restaurants will donate a % of your meal to FPHE**

January 26

Burger Road - 2634 Pleasant Hill Road
 Bangkok Restaurant - 1910 Oak Park Blvd.

February 2

Tahoe Joe's - 999 Contra Costa Blvd.

February 9

Monsoon Masala - 2375 Contra Costa Blvd.

February 16

Back Forty Texas BBQ - 100 Coggins Dr.
 Pasta Pomodoro - 45 Crescent Drive

February 23

Kinder's Deli - 2227 Morello Avenue
 Panda Express - 2380 Monument Blvd.

March 2

Chevy's Fresh Mex - 650 Ellinwood Way

Help Schools Thrive - Give \$55!



College Park High School 20th Annual Crab Feed



Saturday, February 6, 2010

6 pm - Midnight

Pleasant Hill Community Center
320 Civic Drive

Cost: \$50 per person

Proceeds benefit CPHS athletic programs

Make your reservation at
www.cphsboosters.com

Must be 21 or older to attend.
Tickets must be purchased in advance.



FPHE Receives 2009 Mayor's Award

Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education is pleased to announce that we were awarded the 2009 Mayor's Award at the Pleasant Hill Community Awards night in November.

Thank you to Dr. Michael Harris, our previous mayor, for recognizing FPHE and its positive impact on our community.

How to Give

FPHE accepts donations all year.

- Visit our website: www.fphe.org
- Complete the donation card on the back of this newsletter and send to: FPHE, P.O. Box 23851, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
- Arrange for employer matching donations

What is a Feeder Pattern?

By Marji Calbeck

Principal, Valhalla Elementary School

Several years ago our school district organized all the schools into six groups according to the high school the elementary and middles schools feed into, and a Feeder Pattern was born. If you live in Pleasant Hill, you are a part of the College Park Feeder Pattern.

The principals of these schools meet regularly to discuss curriculum, transitions between levels, and issues relevant to our area. Each Feeder Pattern is asked to choose a focus area for the year. For the last two years our curricular area of focus has been math. The administrators for College Park's Feeder Pattern chose this area for three reasons; 1) All students need to pass the CAHSEE (exit exam) in order to graduate, 2) Algebra is now required to be taught in the 8th grade, and 3) a desire to coordinate the adoption of new math materials in the spring of 2009 at the elementary and middle school levels.

Two years ago we began our math journey by providing a day for all 5th and 6th grade teachers to discuss the standards taught at each level. We discovered an overlap. This information allowed the teams to look critically at the new materials and choose one that matched the standards. Articulation meetings were also held between 8th and 9th grade teachers to discuss algebra and make decisions on how best to serve those students.

Last October, 4th and 5th grade teachers from all six elementary schools met to discuss math. In March, we met again and then with middle school teachers to discuss the pilot materials and share information about the best choice for the adoptions. Middle and high school math teachers also met to discuss the needs of freshman transitioning to College Park. In August and November '09, all the K-5 teachers met at Valhalla for training on the new math materials. In addition, our Feeder Pattern in conjunction with the Pleasant Hill Education/Schools Advisory Commission is planning a Math Forum for elementary and middle school parents on the evening of January 25, 2010, at Sequoia Middle School. It is our goal to help all students, K-12, become outstanding mathematicians.

Article reproduced with permission from December 2009 issue of Pleasant Hill Community Focus.

Congratulations to the Winners of The Bee!

On December 12, 2009 students competed in **The Bee**, FPHE's second annual spelling bee. The event was a great success with over 230 student participants. Most of the participants were from Pleasant Hill and Concord elementary schools, but participants came from as far away as San Jose and Alameda.

It was an exciting day for all. The students were excited, the parents were excited for them, and the audience was on the edge of their seats as they watched each participant spell.

Every participant went home with a goodie bag provided by *Kaplan Tutoring* (located at 35B Crescent Drive, 676-8921). The nine Spelling Bee winners took home cash prizes (see list of winners below).

The staff from *Kaplan Tutoring* on Crescent Drive was instrumental in promoting **The Bee** as well as running a fine show. We thank them for their generous support and we look forward to working with them on future events. To learn about Kaplan programs, email anna.leberman@kaplan.com and mention FPHE.

Please be sure to join us for the next Bee in Fall 2010!

2009 Winners of The Bee:

Kindergarten

- 1st - Ben Rood (JCC in Walnut Creek)
- 2nd - Drew Christie (Valhalla Elementary)
- 3rd - Riley Keeler (Strandwood Elementary)



Kindergarten Winners

First Grade

- 1st - Sarthika Chimmula (Woodside Elementary)
- 2nd - James Arona (Sequoia Elementary)
- 3rd - Max Wilson (Strandwood Elementary)



3rd Grade Winners

2nd Grade

- 1st - Jack Lamborn (Sequoia Elementary)
- 2nd - Max Small (Pleasant Hill Elementary)
- 3rd - Stuti Pradhan (Sequoia Elementary)

3rd Grade

- 1st - Dylan Serna (Ygnacio Valley Christian School)
- 2nd - McKenzie Taffe (Bay Farm in Alameda)
- 3rd - Cydne Gambill (Strandwood Elementary)



4th/5th Grade Winners

4th/5th Grade

- 1st - Rebecca Wygal (Strandwood Elementary)
- 2nd - Corey Rumbaugh (Valhalla Elementary)
- 3rd - Gabriel Singer (Strandwood Elementary)

Thank You to Our Bee Donors

Ace Dance Academy
 Black Angus
 Chevy's Fresh Mex
 Chili's
 Chipotle
 City of Pleasant Hill
 Claim Jumper
 Clayton Showtime Basketball
 COSTCO

Pleasant Hill Community Focus
 Pleasant Hill Education Commission
 Diablo Crossfit
 Havana
 The Jungle
 Kaplan Tutoring
 Massage Envy
 Noah's Bagels
 Outback Steakhouse

Pasta Pomodoro
 Red Brick Pizza
 Rubios
 SportClips
 Starbucks
 Sweet Tomatoes
 Tahoe Joe's Famous Steakhouse
 UPS Store, Crescent Drive

Thank You to Our 2010 Donors

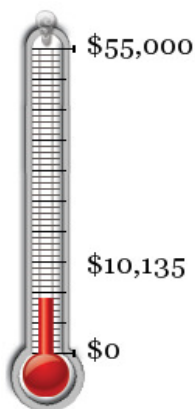
Lisa Ahern*
 Valerie Akcam
 Laurie Anderson
 Steven & Marian Bachofer
 Bret & Jennifer Baker
 Mary Barns*
 Andrew & Dagny Benz
 Robert Bogardus
 John & Linda Boyan*
 Vivian Boyd*
 Paul & Marloe Campbell
 Corrin Canale
 Arnold & Carol Carvajal
 Margaret Casebeer*
 Susan Chwistek*
 Ellen Cooper*
 John & April Crawford
 John & Susan Dailey*
 Christine Danska
 Richard & Yvonne DeAndre
 Don DeGiobbi*
 Richard & Karen Duran*
 Jeff Eide*
 David & Dorothy Englund
 Jane Enloe*
 Dr. John Erdmann & Ornella Gallagher*
 Steve & Azalee Flores
 Sheila Furukawa
 Jay & Kelly Gallagher*
 Gary & Mariah Garcia
 Michael & Telzey Gourley*
 Heather Gowdy*
 Jerry & Lisa Gruen*
 Wendy Halton
 Marc & Leanne Hamaji*
 John & May Hanecak
 Ruth Harrell
 Dr. Michael Harris*
 Matt & Ursula Hawe*
 Gary Hook
 Charlie & Lori Jacobsen
 Rosemary Jenckes
 Stephen Kachur
 Bob Kattenburg & Jill McFadden

Kevin & Fran Kelly*
 Roy & Carla Kiesler*
 Nancy Kleiser
 Charles Jourdain*
 Eydie Larson
 Katherine Lindenauer
 Jason Lindsey
 Steve & Juliet Lompa
 Matt & Olivia Lovett*
 Bruce & Diane MacIver*
 Steve & Julie Malton*
 Sheila Massoni*
 Dave & Mary McKay
 David & Nancy Minolli*
 Mike & Debbie Morehead
 Dave & Jennifer Murov*
 Bruce Nemanic*
 Bruce & Theresa Nidetz
 Charlie & Sue Noack*
 Steve & Melissa Oldenbourg*
 Jordan & Jill Olivier
 Frith & Sean O'Steen
 Karie Parenti
 Kathleen Pastor
 William Patterson*
 Lesley Pope
 Joe Quinlan
 Barbara Rhoades
 Morgan & Katie Roarty
 Ray & MaryAnne Rockwell
 Nadine Rosenzweig
 Jeff & Cindy Rubin*
 Rod Santos
 Louis & Denise Schichnes*
 Andrew Schofield
 Steve & Kay Schramm*
 Chris Stieger-Maguire*
 Darrin & Jackie Stuart
 Paul & Linda Swatek
 Larry Thude
 Theodore Turgeon
 Paul & Cindy Turner*
 Jennifer Voris*
 Marjorie Wallace
 Linda Waters
 Daniel Weil*
 Joan Weiss
 Anne Marie Wickstrom
 Ingrid Wiley
 Helen Yale



Don and Norma Flaskerud present FPHE with a \$2000 donation, received by Sue Noack, FPHE Treasurer

How's the Campaign Going?



If you would like to follow FPHE's annual campaign, visit our website often to see our progress via our campaign thermometer, at left. As of January 28, FPHE has raised over \$10,000.

FPHE thanks all our donors for their efforts to support Pleasant Hill schools. If you haven't donated yet, please donate today.

Thank You to Our Business Donors

Applied Chiropractic*
 Diablo Trophy and Award
 Don & Norma Flaskerud,
 RE/MAX CC Connection
 Horace Dawson Foundation
 Kaplan Tutoring*
 Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce*
 Pleasant Hill Community Focus*
 Susan Wood Photography
 UPS Store, Crescent Dr.*

* Donor in 2009 & 2010

A current list of donors can be viewed at www.fphe.org.

FPHE will publish an updated donor list in the next quarterly newsletter.



Volunteer and E-news Form

If you would like to become a part of FPHE or would like to be included on our E-news distribution list, please complete the information below and mail this column to:

Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education
P.O. Box 23851
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please add me to FPHE's E-news list.

I am interested in helping with the following:

Community Campaign for Education - Jan-Mar

Oak Park Restaurant Walk - May 11, 2010

July 4th in the Park and the parade - July

"The Bee" spelling bee - Fall/Winter

Web site Coordinator - Ongoing

Grant Advisory Committee - Spring

Marketing Committee - Ongoing

Business Partners Committee - Ongoing



General Information About FPHE



FPHE Board Members

President: Steve Oldenbourg,
Soldenbourg@fphe.org

Vice President: Kelly Gallagher,
Kgallagher@fphe.org

Treasurer: Sue Noack,
Snoack@fphe.org

Secretary: Leanne Hamaji,
Lhamaji@yahoo.com

Board Member: Kristine Duffy,
Kduffy@fphe.org

Board Member: Lisa Gruen,
Lgruen@fphe.org

Board Member: Ursula Hawe,
Uhawe@fphe.org

Board Member: Fran Kelly,
Fkelly@fphe.org

Schools Supported by FPHE

Fair Oaks Elementary

Gregory Gardens Elementary

Hidden Valley Elementary

Pleasant Hill Elementary

Sequoia Elementary

Strandwood Elementary

Valhalla Elementary

Pleasant Hill Middle

Sequoia Middle

Valley View Middle

College Park High School

FPHE Basics

Join Our Mailing List / Please Donate

Visit www.fphe.org

Contact Us

P.O. Box 23851
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Website: www.fphe.org

Email: generalinfo@fphe.org

Tax ID#: 26-2326345

FPHE Mission Statement

To work in partnership with our local community to enhance the quality of education and provide enrichment opportunities for students in Pleasant Hill schools.

Submit a Date to the FPHE Educator

If you would like to submit a date to the FPHE Educator, please email: Lhamaji@yahoo.com

Please remember dates should be at least three months in advance.

Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education

If you prefer, donate online at www.fphe.org

I wish to contribute the following to the

Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education:

\$ _____

Please mail donations to:

FPHE
P.O. Box 23851
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Tax ID#: 26-2326345



Payment enclosed. (Please make your check payable to FPHE.)

Please charge my VISA MasterCard American Express Security Code: _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____ / ____ / ____

Card Security Code _____

Cardholder Signature _____ Phone _____

Cardholder Name (Please print) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Please contact me about volunteering for Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education