



The FPHE Educator

Education News from Our Community

Volume 2

Third Quarter
2009

Come to “The Bee”! FPHE’s Second Annual Spelling Bee

Saturday, December 12, 2009
Pleasant Hill City Hall, Council Chambers
100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Bee is a community-wide spelling bee for grades K-5. The event is a fun, family experience intended to promote education throughout our city. Students from all towns and schools are welcome to participate.

Below is the schedule. A short intermission will follow each session:

- Grade K: 9:30 am - 10:30 am (check-in 9:00 am)
- Grade 1: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (check-in 10:30 am)
- Grade 2: 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm (check-in 12:00 pm)
- Grade 3: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm (check-in 1:30 pm)
- Grades 4 & 5: 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm (check-in 3:00 pm)

We will have prizes!

Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners of each session:

- First prize: \$100
- Second prize: \$50
- Third prize: \$25

All participants will receive a certificate and a gift bag.

Registration begins at the end of October. Registration is \$5. All proceeds will go to FPHE and Pleasant Hill schools. Don't let your child miss the opportunity to participate with the other elementary students in our community!

To Register:

- Visit the FPHE website, www.fphe.org. Print the registration form and mail it with payment to FPHE, P.O. Box 23851, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
- Call Kaplan Tutoring, (925) 676-8921
- Visit Kaplan Tutoring, 35B Crescent Drive, Pleasant Hill

Look for fliers sent home with MDUSD students in Pleasant Hill schools.

The Bee is co-sponsored by Kaplan Tutoring and the Pleasant Hill Education/ Schools Advisory Commission.

For more information or questions, email generalinfo@fphe.org or visit www.fphe.org.

We look forward to seeing you on December 12th!

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Mark your Calendar

- 10/15-10/16 PHMS Coat Drive
- 10/16 CPHS Homecoming Game (3:30 PM)
- 10/17 Valhalla Fall Festival
- 10/21-10/28 Strandwood Book Fair
- 10/23 FPHE Open House for Preschool/Kinder Parents
- 10/23 Strandwood Fall Festival
- 10/24 PHE Carnoween
- 10/31 Gregory Gardens Gatorween/Haunted House
- **11/1 Daylight Savings Ends — set clocks BACK**
- 11/6-11/13 Sequoia Elementary Book Fair
- **11/11 Veterans Day — No School**
- 11/18 PHMS Drama Performance
- 11/18 CPHS Jazz Festival
- 11/20 PHMS Turkey Trot
- 12/7 Elementary School Parent Conferences Begin
- 12/12 FPHE's The Bee

The Year in Review

The first year for the Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education (FPHE) saw many successes. We elected a board of directors, established by-laws, and secured our 501(c)(3) non-profit status from the IRS. We hosted fundraising events including The Bee and the Oak Park Restaurant Walk, implemented a city-wide donation campaign, and awarded over \$14,000 in grants to Pleasant Hill public schools. These fun events increased our visibility and helped create a deeper sense of community. Not bad for a year's work!

The outpouring of donations, volunteerism, interest by local merchants, and the public's participation in our fundraising events is a clear indication that Pleasant Hill residents recognize the need for an education foundation. Our work has just begun and we need your continued support. Our goal for the coming year is to expand our reach within the city and connect with more community groups and residents to emphasize the need for local support of our schools.

The benefits of a strong educational system in our community are clear. Strong schools benefit us all. Your business will grow as new people move into the community and your property value will increase as more home buyers understand the community's dedication to strong schools. Most importantly, strong schools enhance the lives of the children in our community.

Our community benefits from a very active parent base. Parents volunteer in all capacities and generously donate at our local schools. While these actions are an asset and greatly needed, they do not transcend from Kindergarten through 12th grade. A community-based education foundation, like FPHE, focuses on the educational experience for all students across the entire College Park feeder pattern.

Over the next nine months we will continue to build on our early successes. We will hold similar fundraisers starting with **The Bee** on December 12. We will launch a Business and Realtors Partners Program, host a middle school or high school event, host an **Open House** for preschool and kindergarten parents on October 23, and deepen our volunteer base.

I encourage you to get involved and support the Foundation. There are many ways to get involved. If you are interested in volunteering for an event, please feel free to contact us via the information on the back page of this newsletter. Monetary donations can be made as a pledge, one time donation, or as matching funds with your employer. If you have other creative ideas for becoming involved we welcome your comments. Simply talking about the existence of FPHE with family and friends also helps spread the word about the importance of a community education foundation.

Get involved and make a difference in your community!

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Steve Oldenbourg
President
Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education



2009 Grants

FPHE received 18 grant requests in 2009 and awarded 16 grants. Below are the schools and programs that received FPHE funds in May 2009:

College Park High School:

Models for Writers (\$1000)
NY Times current events magazine (\$790)
PC workstation (\$1000)

Gregory Gardens Elementary

Lawrence Hall of Science workshop (\$1000)
Walk Through the American Revolution program (\$730)
Thesaurus class set (\$510)

Pleasant Hill Elementary:

Board Math materials (\$1000)

Pleasant Hill Middle School:

Troy Spencer Memorial Garden education supplies (\$1000)

Sequoia Middle School:

Math/Science Vernier Probeware (\$1000)
LCD projector for math/language arts (\$1000)
Microsoft Office instructional software (\$1000)
Dictionary/Thesaurus class set (\$525)

Strandwood Elementary:

Accelerated Reader expanded program (\$1000)
Touch Math kit (\$667)

Valley View Middle School:

LCD projector for math program (\$1000)

Elementary PE Program:

Voice amplification system for outdoor instruction (\$1000)

Thank you to all who made these grants possible.



2008-2009 API Results

Congratulations to the following schools for their Academic Performance Index (API) scores in 2008-2009:

Fair Oaks:	Up 31 points
Gregory Gardens:	Up 20 points, API above 800
Hidden Valley:	Up 21 points, API above 800
Pleasant Hill:	Up 39 points, API above 900
Sequoia:	API above 900
Strandwood:	API above 900
Valhalla:	Up 17 points
Pleasant Hill MS:	Up 22 points, API above 800
Sequoia MS:	Up 12 points, API above 800
Valley View MS:	Up 24 points, API above 800
College Park HS:	Up 22 points

Restaurant Walks Support FPHE

In May and July FPHE was the sponsor and co-sponsor of two successful restaurant walks. The Oak Park Restaurant Walk was held at the Oak Park Center and was a wonderful family event. The Downtown Restaurant Walk, sponsored by the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce was a great way to spend a summer evening and transformed Crescent Drive into a festival of food.

Together, the events raised over \$8000 for the eleven Pleasant Hill public schools.

FPHE would like to thank the Chamber, the City of Pleasant Hill, and the following restaurants for their participation and contributions to the restaurant walks:

A Special Thanks

FPHE would like to express a special thank you to Mark Seidemann. Mark is an attorney with Cooper, White & Cooper LLP in San Francisco. He is the parent of a student within MDUSD and two graduates of CPHS. Mark was instrumental in helping FPHE obtain non-profit and 501(c)(3) status.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to Mark for his generous efforts helping establish FPHE.

Oak Park Restaurant Walk

- Bangkok Restaurant
- Dallimonti's
- Kobe Japan
- Nibblers
- Smokin' Okie
- Sunshine Café

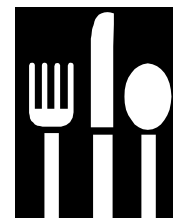
Downtown Restaurant Walk

- Bubble and Crepe
- Chipotle
- Coco Swirl
- Daphe's Greek Café
- Jamba Juice
- Juste le Debut
- Monsoon Masala
- Pasta Pomodoro
- Peet's Coffee and Tea
- Quizno's
- Red Brick Pizza
- Shaadzee Bakery
- Sweet Tomatoes

FPHE School Representatives

Please join us in thanking our FPHE school communication coordinators. The following volunteers help us get FPHE information out to Pleasant Hill parents:

Fair Oaks:	Kaija Cook
Gregory Gardens:	Lisa Gruen
Hidden Valley:	Nancy Minolli
Pleasant Hill:	Ursula Hawe
Sequoia Elementary:	TBD
Strandwood:	Kristi Duffy
Valhalla:	Fran Kelly
PHMS:	Nancy Shillis
Sequoia Middle:	Jane Enloe
Valley View:	Debbie Hunter
CPHS:	Leanne Hamaji



Get to Know College Park High School

College Park High School is the neighborhood high school for the majority of schools in Pleasant Hill. Barbara Oaks has been the Principal at CPHS since 2005. Previously, Ms. Oaks was a Vice Principal at CPHS for five years and a teacher at CPHS for 12 years.

In 2000 and 2007 CPHS was given the California Distinguished School award for its overall excellence.

CPHS was built in 1960. It is the largest school in MDUSD with a population averaging 2000 students. Despite its large population the average class size is 30 students. Because of its large student body and college preparatory curriculum CPHS is able to offer the most Advanced Placement (AP) classes (17) of any MDUSD high school. CPHS offers AP classes in English, Environmental Science, Psychology, Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Spanish IV & V, French IV & V, German IV, Economics, World History, U.S. Government, U.S. History, Calculus, and Statistics. In the past four years, passing grades on AP tests (scores of 3, 4, and 5) have increased significantly. The percentage of students receiving a passing grade on AP tests has remained on par with Northgate H.S. and other local high schools. Many students at CPHS are nationally recognized as AP Scholars and AP Scholars with Honors.

CPHS also offers 10 honors classes and six Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) classes. Students can participate in the other 25 ROP classes offered off-campus through MDUSD as well.

In 2007-2008 CPHS' graduation rate was very high with 81% of its graduates meeting UC and CSU entrance requirements. In recent years CPHS has sent students on to Brown, Harvard, MIT, NYU, Stanford, Yale, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, USC, USF, University of Michigan, Cal Poly, and many other top-ranked colleges and universities. College Park's Academic Performance Index (API) went up 22 points in the last school year.

CPHS students have many achievements in the areas of academics, music, and sports. The California Math League (CML) is an ongoing statewide high-level math competition involving juniors and seniors. In previous years CPHS ranked within the top five statewide. Currently, CPHS remains number one in the county. CPHS regularly has students who reach the semi-finalist and finalist levels of the National Merit Scholarship competition, which is based on PSAT scores. In 2008-2009, CPHS had three semi-finalists and one finalist.

In sports, both the boys and girls track team won the 2006 North Coast Championships, and placed 15th (boys) and 16th (girls) at the 2006 California State Championships. The CPHS varsity football team won the DFAL football championship in 2006. The wrestling team won their second consecutive DFAL championship, North Coast Section Team and Dual Titles (2006 and 2007). Varsity baseball won their first NCS title in 2008. Water polo was a NCS finalist in 2007. Varsity boys volleyball won the championship in 2008. Other sports offered include tennis, golf, swimming, water polo, lacrosse, and soccer.

CPHS has a wonderful band, jazz ensemble, and orchestra. Recently, the CPHS Symphony Orchestra was asked to participate in the 5th Annual New York International Music Festival at Carnegie Hall in 2011. Drama, choir, and an expanded visual arts program, including ceramics, glass, art design, photography, and video production round out an expansive arts program. Student groups and clubs offer many extracurricular activities for students. The school's organic garden and food production provides a rich educational experience for participating students.

The well-rounded and positive educational environment at CPHS is enhanced by its attentive staff and parent groups. Its very active PTSA and booster clubs increase the sense of community for parents, as well as students. It's not uncommon for families who started in kindergarten together to reunite at CPHS as their children complete their K-12 education. It all adds up to a welcoming and thorough educational experience for the students and their families.

Don't forget: College Park's Homecoming Game is Friday, October 16, at 3:30 p.m.



Thank You to Our Donors

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 Kaplan Tutoring
 Mary Jane's Preschool
 Mt. Diablo Education Assoc. (MDEA)
 Oak Park Properties
 Pleasant Hill Coin and Jewelry Exchange
 Residents for Safe Neighborhoods
 Triangle Digital INX Co.
 UPS Store, Crescent Drive

How to Give

FPHE accepts donations throughout the year. To make a donation, please:

- Visit our website: www.fphe.org
- Complete the donation card on the back of this newsletter and send it to: FPHE, P.O. Box 23851, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
- Speak with your employer about donation matching programs.

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:

- "The Bee" spelling bee - December 12
- Community Campaign for Education - Jan-Mar
- Oak Park Restaurant Walk - Spring
- July 4th in the Park and the parade - July
- 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@fphe.org
- 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:

\$ _____

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P.O. Box 23851
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Tax ID#: 26-2326345



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Please contact me about volunteering for Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education