

# Pleasant Views

A PTA

Pleasant Hill School

434 West Illinois Avenue

Palatine, IL 60067

## Important Dates to Remember

### October

16 Fall Fest Food Orders Due  
20-23 Book Fair-Resource Center  
23 Fall Fest 5:30—8:00p.m.  
30 Halloween Parade & Parties

### November

5 Just Girls 5th graders 6:30p.m.  
6 School Pride Day  
10 PTA Mtg.  
11 Veteran's Day  
12 Boys Only (5th & 6th) Program  
6:30p.m.  
23/24 No School—Parent Teacher  
Conferences  
25/26 No School—Thanksgiving



## Principal's Message

When I was a kid, there were very few behavior indiscretions that would send my father spiraling into undiscovered levels of irritation more than the Palcer kids being wasteful. Letting the water run while you were brushing teeth or leaving a light on in an unoccupied room would inevitably result in my father heaving a heavy sigh, rubbing his brow, and muttering something along the lines of, "If I had a nickel for every time...I'd have enough money to pay the electric/water/heating bill!" Of course, if my sister or I got off with just the one grumbled line, we considered ourselves lucky. Heaven forbid we committed the sin of wastefulness on a day when my father was paying bills. My sister and I were probably the only kids who learned how to multiply decimals by calculating the cost per kilowatt hour on the back of a ComEd bill. But even math torture was preferable to being an audience to a lecture delivered by my father on the evils of wasting water/electricity/heat when, "...there are kids in Ethiopia who don't even know what heat/running water/electricity is! Don't you know how lucky you kids are?!?!?" While there was no arguing with the running water and electricity portion of his statement, I often wanted to tell my dad that kids living near equatorial Africa probably didn't need heat. However, getting grounded on top of a lecture didn't seem like the best idea.

While I don't plan on lecturing your kids or teaching mathematics in terms of utility bills, there will be an emphasis on reducing consumption at Pleasant Hill this year. Reduce, reuse and recycle will take on true meaning rather than being an environmental cliché. Obviously, given global warming, increased carbon emissions, and environmental degradation, nearly everyone has a growing interest in reducing energy consumption, reusing materials, and recycling. Plus, I believe

- Matt Palcer, *Principal* Kristy Seifert, *Assistant Principal*
- Margo Ban, *PTA Co-President* Donna Hirsch, *PTA Co-President*
- Jan Sieben and Penny Schmit, *Newsletter Editors*

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we've also suffered enough emotionally from being constantly subjected to television commercials showing some poor polar bear mother and cub swimming in search of ice floes that no longer exist. I think I'd go without heat this winter not to have to see one of those tear-jerkers again (or I could just stop watching TV!).

Most of the changes we'll make at Pleasant Hill will be small. If you've volunteered at school this year, you noticed that we've done away with sticker visitor badges in favor of permanent, reusable badges on lanyards. And no more milk cartons will end up in the garbage; the kids are recycling all of them. Smart boards have eliminated the need to purchase plastic overhead sheets and projectors. Paper-based communications, like *Pleasant Views*, teacher handbooks, and weekly newsletters, have evolved into e-files that use almost no paper. Masking tape is almost non-existent as all teachers have been provided with reusable sticky tack to hang decorations and student work. Heck, I turn off the light in the PTA workroom when not in use, and every now and then, it actually stays off for more than ten minutes! Are any of these measures going to save the world? No. Might they inspire the kids to examine other areas in their lives and make some changes? Possibly. Will the kids have a better understanding that reducing, reusing, and recycling are critical factors in developing a healthy environment and a responsibility for conscientious citizens of the world? Yes.

It is my hope that this is a message that we can deliver to the kids together. I'd like to think that at home, recycling is stressed as much as it is at school; that possessions can find a second life being reused in a new capacity; that a few degrees can be rolled back on the thermostat as a means to reducing energy consumption. In sending this message to kids, maybe we will inspire to become adults who build future cities filled with green roofs, powered by solar or wind power, with public

transportation provided by fleets of hybrid vehicles and electromagnet trains. Wouldn't that be cool? Wouldn't we feel an immense sense of pride in helping facilitate those changes?

Ghandi was quoted as saying, "We must become the change we want to see in the world." Consider this new emphasis at Pleasant Hill to be a small step in helping bring about some meaningful change and some positive new habits.

Matt Palcer

Principal



## 6th Grade Fundraiser

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Help Support your 6<sup>th</sup> grade class!

***Entertainment books will be on sale at the Fall Fest for \$20.00 each.***

Save with coupons for:

Dicks Sporting Goods      Dominick's      Steak n Shake      Champs      Movie Tickets discount

And much, much more!!!!

For additional information or ordering, please contact: Kristi Svec, Karen Schutz, Jane Haduch, Debbie Fallico, Judy Benka or Susie Fox.



## For Boys

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Michael Program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys

Calling all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and their dads (or other adult male companion)!! You are invited to attend a FREE Pleasant Hill PTA sponsored social event on Thursday evening, November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30 in the Pleasant Hill cafeteria. This **NEW** program is being introduced to encourage open communication between Dads and Sons. The Robert Crown Center for Health Education will be on hand to discuss self-esteem, respect, nutrition, physical changes and more. This *Boys Only* program is a great way to open the doors of communication between dads and their boys. RSVP forms will be in mailboxes soon. For more information, contact Health and Safety coordinators, Michelle Gattuso at [michelle.gattuso@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.gattuso@gmail.com) or Lisa Sammons at [lsammons@comcast.net](mailto:lsammons@comcast.net).



## Trick or Treat at Fremd

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Fremd High School Community

Trick or Treat Festival

For Children Ages 12 and Under

(must be accompanied by an adult)

Thursday Oct. 29th

4:30—6:00p.m.



Join us for games, crafts,  
haunted mazes, pictures and  
LOTS OF CANDY

## Make a Difference Club

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The Make a Difference Club will be collecting gently used books (non-textbook) for the organization, **Book Worm Angels**; as well as, Mrs. Harms bilingual students. The **book drive** will take place **Monday, October 19th - Friday, October 23rd**. While you are shopping for new books at this year's Book Fair please consider donating your gently used books. Collection boxes will be located in classrooms and outside the Resource Center. The charity, Book Worm Angels will distribute the donated books to underserved children.



Although it's hard to believe that Halloween is around the corner, the Make A Difference Volunteers are already preparing for their annual **Treats for Troops, Halloween candy collection**. The candy collected will be donated to the Palatine based *Yellow Ribbon Support Group* that distributes care packages to soldiers serving around the world. The **candy collection will take place Monday, November 2nd-Monday, November 9th**. Collection boxes will be located in each classroom.

**Next Club meetings:** Monday, October 26th and Monday, November 9th in Room 103 during lunch recess.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Make A Difference Club's efforts.

Judy Benka

Make A Difference Club

## Just Girls

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Reminder 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls and mothers... you are invited to attend a FREE Pleasant Hill PTA sponsored social event on Thursday evening, November 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30 in the Pleasant Hill cafeteria. This 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event is to encourage open communication between Mothers and Daughters. Pat Garrity, L.C.S.W, will be our guest speaker and she has some tips and tricks every girl should know. It is a little time to spend with your daughter and it's *Just Girls*. Please RSVP by October 30th. For more information, contact Health and Safety coordinators, Michelle Gattuso at [michelle.gattuso@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.gattuso@gmail.com) or Lisa Sammons at [lsammons@comcast.net](mailto:lsammons@comcast.net).



## Pleasant Hill Annual Coat Drive Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>

Need to clean out those closets? Want to help a family in need?

Pleasant Hill will be hosting its annual Winter Coat Drive.

All donated coats will be given to the District 15 coat closet for families in need. Both children's and adult coats will be accepted.

All donations must be in good condition and **CLEAN!**

Only winter coats can be accepted at this time, please do not send any spring or fall weight jackets.

Coats can be placed in the bin by the front office.



Thank you for your generosity.

Health and Safety

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## SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKE DAY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Come to retake day IF:**

- \*\* you did not order a portrait package on picture day (you forgot to bring in your envelope) and would like to now.
- \*\* you are new to Pleasant Hill (welcome!)
- \*\* you were absent on picture day
- \*\* you were not happy with your portrait package.

(You **must return** the whole package that you are unhappy with.)

**WE WILL VISIT EACH CLASSROOM TO PICK UP ANY STUDENTS NEEDING THEIR PICTURE TAKEN/RETAKEN.**

Additional order forms available upon request – Just ask Mrs. Fletcher or Mrs. Lasiewicz at the front office or Betty Buccieri @ 847-202-0557



# Environmental Education

So, it's Monday, our day off from school as a result of Christopher Columbus' discovery of land across the ocean from his home (seems like that might warrant more than a day off of school, but I digress), and I am reading the Sunday paper. This is actually a step up from what usually happens—often, I completely blow off the Sunday paper or only get to breeze through the coupon/ad section to see if there's anything I just have to have for a discount! But today is like a free day—yes, there's laundry to do and cleaning to accomplish (when isn't there?!), but it's not the usual scheduled weekday, which means I can take advantage of the lack of structure and enjoy the actual articles in the paper for once.

Today is also the day of the newsletter deadline—by midnight tonight, I have to have my article in for publishing in the newsletter at the end of the week. I've written enough articles for the PTA newsletter to know the drill—I get the reminder email from Penny Schmit or Jan Sieben a few days before and then I think about what to write. Here's my problem (okay, really, this isn't my ONLY problem, but let's face it—you don't really even want to go there!)—although I do really think about what topic to pursue, what I'm really waiting for is inspiration to hit me smack in the face. It's ridiculous, I know. If my husband actually read any of my articles, he'd be doing the big eye roll right now as if to say, "Seriously?" And of course, I'd give him my best "What?" in response, as if this is totally normal. But it is normal in my world, and guess what? Inspiration always hits me.



Today is no different. I'm reading an article in Parade magazine in the Chicago Tribune called We Can Move Mountains by Matt Damon. Okay, so what if the picture of Matt on the front of the magazine is what caught my

eye and I wasn't so interested in the moving mountains thing?! I did actually read the entire article, and I have to say that I'm moved (no pun intended!). It's all about giving to charities and how even the average American lives in a way nearly unthinkable to a couple of billion people in the world. Clean water, sanitation, food—all the things we take for granted are things that people all over the world die from a lack of all the time.

The link to the environment—gotcha—I'm on it. First, clean water and sanitation being available to every person on the

globe helps the environment tremendously. Clean water means everyone is on the watch for how to keep our lakes, oceans, streams, and rivers free from pollution. It also means keeping our land free from pollutants that can get into ground water. Sanitation is important to establish in order to keep waste from polluting ground water and bodies of water. Without treatment facilities, human waste gets dumped in the ocean or in the ground and seriously pollutes the water we drink or the animals that live in or drink the water that we subsequently eat. It's all connected (aha moment!).

My usual part II of the article is the "what can we do" part. And here it goes. In this Matt Damon article, he mentions a refrigerator magnet he remembers from his childhood home that had a little picture of Ghandi on it along with a quote from him saying, "No matter how insignificant what you do may seem, it is important that you do it." There is so much need in the world today, it is often difficult to decide where to start—giving to people in need, helping to preserve our environment, helping others. That's where this quote seems to save the day—just do what you can, no matter how small it seems. Take five minutes to educate yourself on an issue you didn't know about before and tell someone else. Or make a small donation, if you can. It's simply important that we do it.

Today, I'm going to recycle my Sunday paper and cut up the watermelon that's been sitting on my counter for a week so that the whole thing doesn't end up taking up space in a landfill somewhere. Phew, that was easy! Now get out there and do a bunch of seemingly insignificant activities and make a difference in this world! I know you can do it!

*Margo Ban*

Environmental Educator



## BOXTOPS, etc., etc., etc...

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Boxtops: Our first contest of the year went well. Good job to all the winners: Mr. Dano's 5<sup>th</sup> graders: (363 points), Ms. Teipel's 3/4<sup>th</sup> graders (147), and to Ms. DuSold's first graders (390 points) AND Ms. Caldwell's 2<sup>nd</sup> graders (390)! Yes! It was a tie! It should also be mentioned that the second graders RULE! They brought in an awesome total of 718 points as a grade! Sixth graders—do any of you guys eat cereal anymore? Thank you to our friends at Eurofresh Market for helping to provide a reward for our first contest. It is appreciated, very much.

What do we do with all those little pieces of paper, you ask? The Boxtops program helps support the various PTA sponsored activities and events around Pleasant Hill. The funds have been used to purchase a trophy case, to offset the cost of camera equipment for our yearbook (better equipment, more smiling faces of our kids!), and a lot of those fun events that are sponsored by the PTA. So, please, keep clipping—the more we clip, the less, big fund-raising we need to do!!!

**Remember**—there will be a “booth” at Fall Fest. Every family will get a chance to win a “Basket of Boxtops” (as long as you come by and fill out an entry). Extra entries will be earned if you bring 5 Boxtops with you! You can earn 1 extra entry for each 5 Boxtops (2 entries if you bring 10, etc).

**Boxtops contests:** There are a variety of contests and promotions going on. Some of them are ending soon—so sign up for the Boxtops newsletter at [www.btfe.com/passion](http://www.btfe.com/passion) for the 5 extra Boxtops per new registrant and enter the contests so we can win LOTS more Boxtops!

**Soup labels:** Cooler weather means SOUP! Stop by the booth at Fall Fest—there will be a, limited, amount of coupons for various “soup label” products. If you haven't tried some of them—now is the time! Clip those UPC labels—this is what we turn in for points—and eventually, equipment and gear!

**Tyson A+ Project:** Thanks to everyone sending in these labels! They are great! 24 cents apiece! We need 100 before we can send them in for cash, so keep clipping!

New trash to cash programs? There are other programs out there that we would like to evaluate. Advance Brands Fast Fixin “Home Team School Rewards”. It's another program where we collect the logo and send in for cash. This one is worth 30 cents each. The products are available at Jewel food stores, so it might be a worthwhile program. Go to [www.advancebrands.org](http://www.advancebrands.org) for more information. I would like some feedback from parents if these products are used in the home. Any program that will give us money back for things we already purchase can't be all bad.

Other programs that I would like some feedback on are Milk caps. “Nickels for Education”, “Kids, caps and Cash”, and Swiss Valley Cash for Caps”. These are programs that use the caps from milk jugs for cash back (usually 5 cents each). If anyone has seen where these are distributed, please let me know.

Whew! That's a lot of collecting! But every little bit counts. These are things that you may be throwing out, so take a look and let me know if you use them, and where you see them.

Chris Howard-Menk, [howardmenk@comcast.net](mailto:howardmenk@comcast.net)



## A Legislative Look....

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**O**ur state is in a fiscal crisis! School budgets across the board are continuing to be cut, directly impacting education in our schools and around the state.

As you know, the Illinois PTA, has continually supported long term sustainable funding of public education and the supplemental services necessary to ensure the future of every child in every public school in Illinois. The IL FY 2010 Budget has left many districts sadly underfunded. A letter submitted on 8/27/09 from Dr. Koch to the IL General Assembly states that the Federal State Fiscal Stabilization Funds will need to have an additional \$1 billion in education funding to maintain FY 2010 levels. The situation seems bleak. Legislators have drafted a bill, HB 174, to create a solution to this deficit. The IL PTA believes that HB 174 is the first step in creating that sustainability. HB 174 would reform the state's tax policy, increase the state income tax, and institute certain service taxes. This would provide the money for the state to adequately fund public education and other public services, fund pensions, and address the state's structural deficit. [Additional information regarding PTA's viewpoint is linked for your review [www.illinoispta.org](http://www.illinoispta.org).]

Details of HB174, as amended by the Senate:

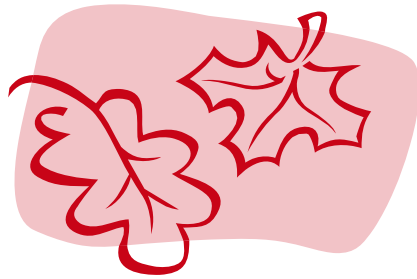
- ☐ Increase both the individual and corporate tax rate to 5%;
- ☐ Increase the individual standard exemption from \$2,000 to \$3,000;
- ☐ Increase the property tax exemption for homeowners from 5% to 10%;
- ☐ Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for low income working families; and
- ☐ Expand the sales tax base to include 39 consumer services.

I wish the new tree planted at school could provide us with a solution! But seriously, what we can do is start talking to our Legislators and School Board Members about the future of our school district and its fiscal restraints. They were *elected* by us to serve in the best interest of our family and children. Let's get to know them better. Attend a Board of Education meeting, or read the meeting's minutes if you can't attend <http://www.ccsd15.net/AboutDistrict15/BoardOfEducation/HTML/BOEMeetingDates.html>. Follow up on issues that are your family's priority...chances are they are others' as well. Working together ensures Pleasant Hill and District 15 continues to be as strong as it can be!

Please feel free to contact me via email with any questions or concerns - [sherrilamerand@yahoo.com](mailto:sherrilamerand@yahoo.com).



**Illinois**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild.one voice.*<sup>®</sup>



# Pleasant Hill Fall Fest

*Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009*

*5:30pm – 8:00pm*

**Come join us for the Fall Festivities!**

There will be lots of games, food, and fun for everyone! The festivities include Bingo, Giant Twister Game, Face Painting, Interactive DJ, Pumpkin Walk, Book Fair, Reflections Art Gallery, and wonderful food!

Please pick up your pre-ordered food tickets on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3-3:30pm or Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:15am-8:45am or 3-3:30pm at the back entrance. You can also pick up your tickets at the Fall Fest.

Don't forget to drop off your decorated pumpkin (with entry form) on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> before 4pm. We will have a table set up at the front and back entrances. Come vote for your favorite pumpkin!

We are still looking for a few volunteers so email Colleen Novak at [colnovak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:colnovak@sbcglobal.net) if you can help!

See you all there!





## The Birthday Book Club

Thank you Birthday Book Club sponsors. Our resource center gained 114 books from the Birthday Book Club. I especially want to thank Mrs. Savage and Mrs. Muldowney for their time and effort involved in selling the books, inserting the birthday labels, and taking the student's picture with their book. I know that it involved a great deal of your time and I truly appreciate your efforts. Thank you PTA for sponsoring the club.

Look for the Birthday Book Club pictures in the hallway outside the resource center. I know that our students enjoy looking at the pictures all year.

Thank you to all the parents who supported the Birthday Book Club this year. The books you donated to our resource center will be enjoyed by Pleasant Hill Students for many years to come.

**T**hanks so much to all the families who have so generously donated snacks for teachers to pass out to the students here who are going without. Teachers report many very happy, relieved students who are then able to perform in class because they aren't hungry.

I feel so blessed to work in such a wonderful and caring community! Please keep the snacks coming throughout the year if you are able to. Thanks again, Sherri Thomas, School Social Worker

Sherri Thomas  
School Social Worker  
Pleasant Hill School: 847-963-5955  
Lincoln School: 847-963-5768



*This newsletter is funded by the Pleasant Hill PTA and produced by Pleasant Hill PTA Volunteers. It is produced bimonthly and is distributed electronically as requested by Pleasant Hill families, staff, and community members.*



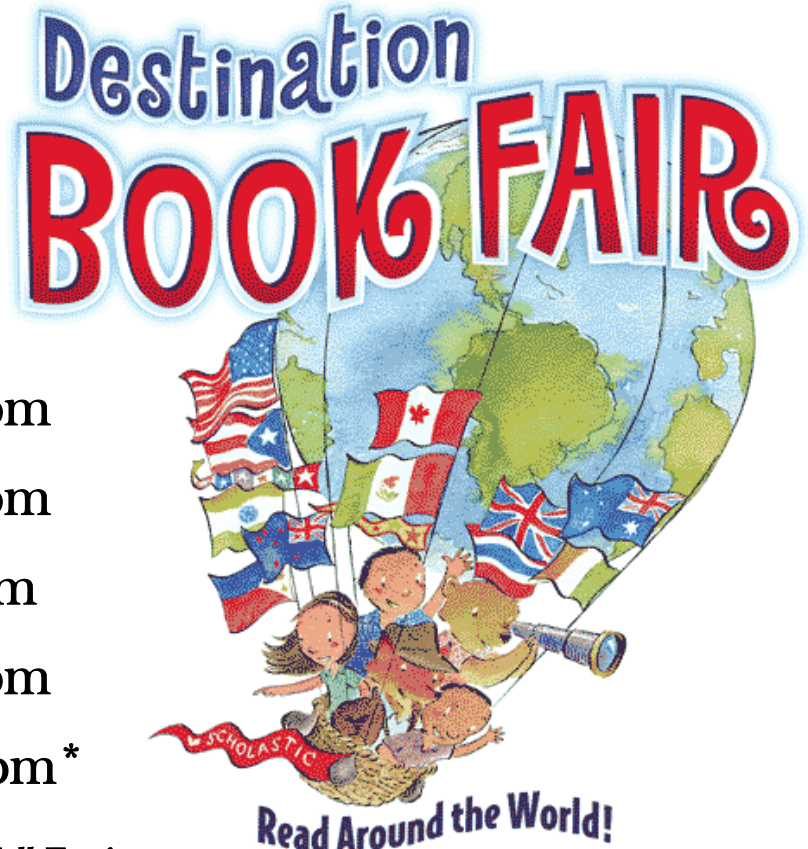
## Journey to Pleasant Hill!

 Tour the exciting book selections!

**October  
20th - 23rd**

Tue: 9:00am - 3:30pm  
Wed: 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Thu: 8:30am - 6:00pm  
Fri: 9:00am - 4:00pm  
5:30pm - 8:30pm\*

*\* open during Fall Fest!*

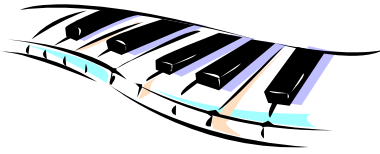


The 2009 Book Fair will be held in Pleasant Hill's Learning Resource Center. Parents, grandparents, and guardians are **welcome at any time** during the book fair to browse and shop for books, creative kits, and small gifts. There are 100's of items for all ages and interests, and all profits help fund our LRC.

Many of us start shopping for the holiday season at Pleasant Hill...so *check it out!*



*Sponsored by your Pleasant Hill PTA.*



# The Music Room

## Program Schedule:

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5/6 Musical**

**December 8<sup>th</sup> – Chorus Concert**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> – 3/4 Musical**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> – 1/2 Musical**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> – Chorus Concert**

**All performances begin at 7:00  
pm in the PH cafeteria.**

## Musical Madness

The 5th and 6th graders have already begun working on their musical called 'Santa's Holiday Playlist' about how Santa scratches his favorite Christmas album and needs to get with the program and get himself an ipod. All the characters help Santa figure out what should be on his new holiday playlist. These productions are so successful because of the wonderful help from parents and volunteers. If you would like to help make scenery, costumes, or props PLEASE call or email me because I have plenty of things that need to get done. If anyone has a Santa costume and/or white beard and would like to loan it to us for the production, that would be greatly appreciated. A list of all costumes will be coming your way soon.



## Recorder Karate Kraze

The 3rd and 4th graders are doing a great job learning the notes on the music staff and playing the recorder. Many of them have already earned their first belt in Recorder Karate. 4th graders will be receiving copies of the music to take home and practice, and 3rd graders will keep their recorders at school until Thanksgiving break. This is so that they do not forget them at home and miss the instruction that day. And also so that they can learn a few songs to play for you once they do take them home.



## Chorus Corner

Cougar Chorus is up and running and we have already had four rehearsals, man time flies! Our first concert is with the Intermediate Band on December 8th where we will ring in the holiday season with 'It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year' and other favorites. We even have a song called 'The Snow's Gotta Go!' for those of you that prefer the summer weather. I am very pleased with the attendance at rehearsals and also impressed with how hard the choir is working. Their dedication to the group is quite commendable.

## Same Face...New Name

On October 24th I will be getting married and I will no longer be Ms. McD :( My new last name will be Mrs. Nauman (naw-men). My email address will be changing in the near future, but I will let you know when it is official.

