

# Pleasant Views

A PTA Publication

Volume 43, Issue 7

Pleasant Hill School

434 West Illinois Avenue

Palatine, IL 60067

## December

- 1-18 MAP Testing
- 14 Waste Free Lunch
- 14 Winter Strings Concert—  
7:00pm, Plum Grove Jr. High
- 16 Board of Education Mtg—  
7:00pm, Sundling Jr. High
- 17 Kindergarten Holiday Lights  
Show
- 18 All School Sing-a-Long—  
2:30, Cafe

**Dec 21-Jan 1:  
Winter Break  
No School!**

## January

- 4 Classes Resume
- 7 Rec Night, Grades 5/6 GIRLS—  
7:00-8:00pm, Gym
- 8 Movie Night—see page 5!
- 12 PTA Meeting—7:00pm,  
Teacher's Lounge
- 13 Board of Education Mtg—  
7:00pm, Sundling Jr. High
- 14 Rec Night, Grades 5/6 BOYS—  
7:00-8:00pm, Gym
- 18 NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther  
King Day
- 19 NO SCHOOL—Teacher Institute

## PTA Presidents' Message

**D**ear Pleasant Hill Parents and Guardians,  
 It's here...Winter Break. Some adults approach these weeks with excitement and others, to be honest, dread it. The kids start the time off all excited, but they can easily turn into the "I'm Bored Monster." So, what are you going to do about it this year? Why not take a different attitude towards Winter Break? It won't be long before the kids are not interested in what we have to say, our ideas, or being with us. Whether you are home with the kids all day or coming home in the evenings – this is an opportunity to make some new memories and avoid the "I'm Bored Monster." Here are some ideas to get you started. Use the internet to get more details.

1. Bake – kids can do quite a lot and take some of the stress off you.
2. Put on a talent show – either just the kids or grown-ups too!
3. Decorate the house – use your holiday decorations, make paper snowflakes, etc.
4. Make homemade gifts – it's cheap and memorable.
5. Join in local holiday events – check out performances at Cutting Hall and the Metropolis.
6. Go shopping – hit the malls after the holiday to take advantage of all the sales!
7. Watch an old fashioned movie – introduce them to one of the black & white classics
8. Watch family videos – remember how cute they were!
9. Try a winter sport – sledding, ice skating, snow shoes... work off those winter calories.
10. Try an indoor sport – go to the YMCA for a day pass, go to open gym, get out of the house.

● Matt Palcer, *Principal* ● Kristy Seifert, *Assistant Principal*  
 ● Margo Ban and Donna Hirsch, *PTA Presidents* ● PTA Website: [www.phpta.org](http://www.phpta.org) ●  
 Jan Sieben and Penny Schmit, *Newsletter Editors*

## ***PTA President's Message, Cont'd***

11. Organize kids' rooms – rearrange the furniture, find the floor again, find out what really is in the closet!

12. Volunteer – many organizations can use help this time of year.

13. Create an art station – set-up a place so they can use on their own. Create a display at the end of the break.

14. Go to a museum – we are so lucky to have so many – check them out.

15. Homework or school projects – pick one day and just get it all done.

16. Read a book together – even the older ones still like the focus time.

17. Write a book together – get creative.

18. Take a day trip – go see what another town has to offer.



19. Take a hike – see how different our world looks in the winter – take pictures.

20. Play games – kids love to play games with parents whether it is Wii, Xbox or board games.

21. Create a wreath – use pictures from cards and photos. Glue them to a straw or foam wreath.

22. Finally, find a special way to show one another how much you care.

Before you go and start the fun, we want to give a big thanks to our Holiday Shop team who put on a great shopping experience for everyone. Enjoy the time off, because when we return, it will be time to start Rec Nights, and Cougar Carnival is coming around the corner on February 5th. Have a wonderful holiday!

***Donna Hirsch, PTA Co-President***

## **E-FLYERS**

Help us conserve paper!

As the district has moved away from sending flyers from outside groups home with the kids, many parents are concerned they are not getting information regarding different programs (Young Rembrandts, Chess Club, Discovery Foreign Language, etc.).

The district still supports those activities by allowing them to operate with District 15 schools, just not with paper flyers. Instead, the district has an electronic bulletin board that houses all extra curricular flyers. If you are interested to see what flyers are posted on that bulletin board, please visit the following link:

<http://www.ccsd15.net/WhatsNew/OnlineFlyers/Index.html>

The e-bulletin board is updated regularly, so check back often!



## Make a Difference Club

**M**any thanks to all of those who participated in this year's Pleasant Hill Giving Tree. This year we supported many different organizations. We had the opportunity to adopt 3 Seniors from St. Joseph's for the Elderly, 6 children from PHD (Preservation for Human Dignity), and 1 teen from the Bridge Youth Program. We also supported Pleasant Hill's Scout's Toys for Tots Campaign. Additionally, four cases of following food items were donated to the Palatine Food Pantry: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Hamburger Helper, and Peaches.

It is due to your tremendous generosity that many others will have a brighter holiday season. Thank you once again to our club volunteers who prepared the Holiday Giving Tree and all of its decorations and created the recipient tags for our trees.

What a successful year of service our school has had thus far - here is a brief recap of 2009:

**Treats for Troops:** Donated 382 pounds of Halloween Candy to the Yellow Ribbon Support Group, who will forward the candy to soldiers serving around the world. Twenty-five pounds was donated to a troop serving in Afghanistan who will distrib-

ute the candy to Afghan children. Letters to troops and to Afghan children also accompanied the candy.

**Book Worm Angels:** Donated 1256 books to Book Worm Angels, a not-for-profit organization that distributes books to needy students within the Chicago Metropolitan area. However, 100 of these books were donated to Mrs. Harms, the bilingual teacher at Pleasant Hill to distribute to her students. In addition, a spare coin drive raised \$1500 towards the purchase of new books for Book Worm Angels.

**Holiday Giving Tree:** Organized the Holiday Giving Tree program.

Thank you to the Pleasant Hill community for all of their support during this past year and helping our club's efforts to make a difference in the lives of others. We wish you all a happy and healthily holiday season and may these wishes continue into the New Year.

**Judy Benka and the Make a Difference Club Volunteers**

## Pleasant Hill's 11th Annual Food Drive Another Success!

Once again, Pleasant Hill School families came together with a giving spirit for the Woodfield Area Children's Organization (W.A.C.O.) 2009 community food drive. Pleasant Hill, inspired with the time to help others and the giving of food donations, contributed 1,736 food items this year! Ms. Silver's 5/6th grade class collected most donations. They contributed 238 food items! They will be receiving the AMC Movie passes.

So many people—children and adults alike—involved themselves again this year. It was just wonderful! We at W.A.C.O thank-you for all that you did to help us provide food to so many. The many families who benefit from your generosity appreciate your efforts for a Thanksgiving meal they would not have been able to have!

The showing of sharing, caring, understanding and involvement goes way beyond a food donation. The entire Pleasant Hill Community should feel proud. Your hard work lets others know there is help and hope in their own communities.

We at W.A.C.O. would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to all for your donations, big or small.

You never stand so tall as when you kneel to help a child.

*Dani Howard, W.A.C.O. Food Drive Coordinator*

*A special thank-you goes out to the many Pleasant Hill new and return volunteer helpers big and small.*

*Special thanks go out to the Johnston Family, the Bellino Family, and the Leatherman Family. Your continuing help makes the whole week run smoothly!*

*Thanks to the 2009 Student Council Officers and all the representatives for their great promotion and all the lifting and delivering of the food items each day.*

*To all the parents, kids, teachers and all the custodians who so enthusiastically helped each day, many thanks!*

*To the Saturday Food Drive helpers.*

*To any unrecognized volunteers, many thanks to you, too!*

## Cyber Safe Kids: Be Safe Online...

### Tips to discuss with your kids

#### **Fun Online in Safe Places**

Use the fun sites that you and your parents have selected.

Ask permission if you want to go to a new fun site.

#### **Keep Your Life in Balance**

Have fun online—but make sure you also get together with your friends and go outside and play.

#### **Think Before You Post**

Be the best you can be online.

Remember anything you post or send online can be sent to others. Other people will judge you by what you post.

Never type your name, address,

or phone number online, send a picture, or complete an online form or survey without first checking with your parent.

Never share your password.

#### **Connect Safely**

If someone sends you a mean or nasty message on a public site, you can say “stop,” leave the site, file a complaint, or ask a parent for help.

If a friend sends you a mean or nasty message, tell your friend to stop or tell your parent.

Never send mean or nasty messages.

#### **Turn it off & Tell**

If anything inappropriate or “yucky” ever appears when you are online—quickly turn off the screen and tell an adult.

#### **Spot the Ads**

Many websites have ads for things kids like. Some have games that are really ads. Some want you to sign up to receive more ads. Some want you to send ads to friends.

See if you can spot the ads. Remember, you do not need to buy everything you see in ads.

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**LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION ....**

**GET READY FOR A NIGHT AT  
THE MOVIES**

**PARENTS ...A NIGHT OUT WITHOUT YOUR CHILD...DROP THEM OFF, GO TO DINNER, RUN SOME ERRANDS... WE'LL DO THE REST!**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2010**

**MOVIE NIGHT AT PH**

**6:30-8:30 IN THE CAFÉ**

**\$5.00 PER STUDENT (PAID IN ADVANCE—SEE FORM NEXT PAGE)**

**PRE-PAID ADMISSION INCLUDES MOVIE, POPCORN & JUICE BOX**

***\$6.00 PER STUDENT AT THE DOOR—SNACKS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST SO GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!***

**PLEASANT HILL STUDENTS ONLY**

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PLEASANT HILL TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE TO HELP US PURCHASE....**

- **DIGITAL CAMERAS @ \$175.00 EACH (WE ONLY HAVE ONE AND IT IS THREE YEARS OLD)**
- **REPLACEMENT LIGHTBULBS FOR SMARTBOARD PROJECTORS @ \$200.00 EACH (WE DON'T HAVE ANY! )**
- **MINI HAND-HELD VIDEO CAMERAS @ \$179.00 EACH**

# LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION .....

## GET READY FOR A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES ...

To purchase advance tickets please complete and return the form below no later than Friday, December 18th, 2009. *Attendance is limited to Pleasant Hill Students.*

TWO MOVIES WILL BE SHOWN (YOU HAVE YOUR CHOICE OF WHICH MOVIE TO ATTEND )

**PLAYING IN THEATRE #1 (CAFÉ)**

**"UP"**

**PLAYING IN THEATRE #2 (GYM)**

**"CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS"**

Student Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ # Tickets @ \$5.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Checks may be made payable to Pleasant Hill)

My child/children has permission to attend movie night : \_\_\_\_\_ (parent signature)



“ Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice. ”

*Dave Barry*

## Boxtops, and More!

Everyone—GREAT job on collecting the Boxtops and soup labels. We are doing well in collecting those little scraps of paper! We hope that our efforts go a long way towards helping to purchase new camera equipment for the school.

Congratulations to our December Boxtops winners: 1st place (432): Mrs. Hyczyk, 6th grade; 2nd place (379): Mrs. Teipel, 3/4th grade; and 3rd place (366): Mr. Issacs, 3/4th grade. They have all won games for the classroom.

There is still time to sign up for the Boxtops newsletter at [www.btfe.com/passion](http://www.btfe.com/passion) and earn 5 bonus Boxtops for each new registrant. Hurry, this offer expires December 31!

Keep an eye out on the backpacks coming home. In those, you will find some information on a new “trash to cash” program: Fast Fixins “Home Team Rewards.” It is very similar to our Tyson Project A+ collections. Purchase Fast Fixin’ and Fast Classics

products (bags of chicken and meatballs). Clip the home Team logos found on these products and send them back into school. We will receive 30 cents for each logo. You can find these products at Jewel Food Stores. See the flyers coming home for more information, website, and coupon.

**How do you get money for the stuff kids need?**



Also, remember to bring in your soup labels—we have a submission date of December 31 to earn matching bonus points from Campbell’s!

Everyone have a great holiday break. Save those Boxtops! There are going to be some special contests in the new year!!

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

## Tae Kwon Do “Building Future Leaders for Tomorrow” After School

Pleasant Hill PTA is hosting an after-school enrichment program which focuses on behavior training combined with martial arts to improve communication and basic defense skills. This “Building Future Leaders for Tomorrow” program is a hands-on interactive program for kids K through 6th grade. W. Kim Tae Kwon Do will be hosting two 4-week sessions starting mid-January (on Tuesdays or Wednesdays) and 100% of proceeds will benefit PH PTA. Class size is limited and will be granted on a first come basis so register early! 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).

### **6-Stage Character development program:**

1. Why you should be a good student.
2. Why you must think for yourself and not follow the crowd.
3. Learning skills-focus your eyes, your ears, your body, your mind application.
4. How to deal with a bully.
5. Why you should never be a bully.
6. A, B, C’s of conflict avoidance.



# Environmental Education

Ahh, the holidays! Even if I didn't notice the lights in the neighborhood or the long lines at Target or the coupons for baking items at the grocery store, I'm pretty sure I would know they're here simply from the stress I'm feeling starting the first of the month! 'Tis the season!

Every year, I try to remain calm and tell myself that this is the year I'm going to be ahead of the game and more organized and less stressed, but let's face it. I am SO dreaming! In my dreams, I'm baking dozens of holiday cookies and breads, and my kitchen is still clean. In my dreams, my house is clean, yet I don't remember actually cleaning it. In my dreams, the presents are wrapped under the tree BEFORE midnight on December 24th!

Again, these are fantasies, I know, so I'm not really expecting ANY of these things to actually materialize. However, I do think I can do better in one area of my holiday craziness with little to no added stress, and that is my "greening" of the holidays.

I've already been taking my reusable bags everywhere I go—not just to Jewel, but anywhere I shop. I've also been saving the Comics section of the newspaper the last several weeks for wrapping paper purposes. Here are a few more ways to be "green" during the holiday season per the SWANCC website (Suburban Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org)) . . .

**Pair rechargeable** batteries with electronic gifts.

**Unplug appliances** and decorations when not in use - a power strip makes this convenient.

**Entertain with reusable** or compostable cups, plates, silverware, napkins, etc. at your party instead of disposables.



**Make gift tags** or postcards with cards from last year. Detach the front of the card and write your message on the back

**Give gifts** with the environment in mind. Visit SWANCC's [Eco-Friendly Marketplace](#) for great gift ideas made from a wide variety of materials.

**Recycle broken** holiday lights.

**And for lights, there are locations nearby for recycling . . .**

The following communities are hosting a Holiday Lights Recycling Program this winter.

Mini-lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights, extension cords, etc. All colors and lengths will be accepted. Garland, live greens, wreathes, or other non-recyclables are NOT accepted.

## **Village of Arlington Heights Public Works**

222 N Ridge Avenue  
Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 3:30 pm  
December 28, 2009 - January 15, 2010  
(847) 368-5800

## **Village of Hoffman Estates** in Village Hall Lobby

1990 Hassell Road  
Monday - Friday: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm  
December 7, 2009 - January 15, 2010  
(847) 882-9100

## **City of Rolling Meadows**

3600 Kirchoff Road  
24-hour outside drop-off at City Hall entrance  
November 25, 2009 - January 8, 2010  
(847) 394-8500

So, keep these tips in mind as you make your way through the next few weeks. Every so often, don't forget to take a moment to enjoy whatever it is you're doing (even if it is vacuuming the living room for the 4th time that week!), and enjoy your holidays! See you in 2010!

*Margo Ban*

# Rebecca Caudill Book Award



Pleasant Hill Students in grades 4-6th, are invited to participate in the Rebecca Caudill Book Award. The Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award was developed to encourage children and young adults to read for personal satisfaction.

It is an Illinois award for outstanding literature for young people and is sponsored by the Illinois Reading Council. Each year 20 books are nominated for this award. Pleasant Hill's Library has two copies of each nominated book. All 4-6th grade classes listened to book talks about this year's nominated books. After reading one of the books, students

should fill out a short summary of the book and submit it to Mrs. Garro. After turning in a summary, the student's name is posted on our Rebecca Caudill bulletin board under the title of the read that he/she has read. Students are encouraged to read at least three books on the list and then they will be eligible to vote for their favorite book on February 14th. Votes are sent to the award committee, which compiles the final tally. The winning title is announced in March. This year's nominated books have been flying off the shelf. These books can also be found at our public libraries. Think about checking out a Rebecca Caudill nominated book to read over the winter break.

*Kelly Garro*  
*Learning Resource Center Teacher*

## Multicultural Fest 2010

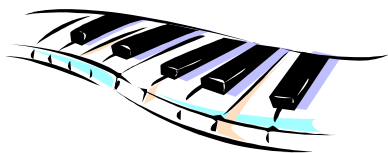
### Calling cultural groups

The 2nd Multicultural Fest will be held on Friday, April 12th, 2010. Planning is underway and now we are calling on cultural groups to represent their cultures at the event.

The idea behind the Multicultural Fest is to expose Pleasant Hill families to some of the diverse cultures within our school. The event consists of four categories: parade, performance, food, and activities (games). Each cultural group will represent its culture within these categories (not necessary to participate in all 4 categories).

We are in need of volunteers to lead each cultural group and we don't want to miss your culture. If you would like your culture represented or would like to help out at the Multicultural Fest, please contact Yukari Lofton (847-359-1578 or [yukari@lofton.net](mailto:yukari@lofton.net)) or Rita Poklacki (847-204-8174 or [rita.poklacki@bairdwarner.com](mailto:rita.poklacki@bairdwarner.com)).





# The Music Room

Mrs. McDonough Nauman

## Program Schedule:

**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

Thank goodness Santa finally got his ipod! The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders did a great job with their musical, *Santa's Holiday Playlist* about how Santa's favorite holiday record gets scratched and he needs help from the elves, reindeer, toy soldiers and more to get him into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with an ipod to play all of his favorite tunes. Everyone worked very hard on the production and they did a great job. If you would still like to order a DVD of the performance, please send \$15 (cash or check made payable to Pleasant Hill School) in an envelope with your child's name on it.

## More Musical Madness

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders have put down their recorders for a few weeks to start working on their musical called *It's Saturday!* about a day off in the life of a kid. Some songs are about watching cartoons, waking up late, slumber parties, and even a song about chores which I know you parents will love! The show is on February 11<sup>th</sup> and if you are interested in helping with props, scenery, or costumes please contact me as I have a long To-Do list.



## Holiday Sing-a-Long

On the day before winter break the students all join together to sing holiday songs about reindeer, snow, jingle bells, candles, and more! All the lyrics are projected on the screen and students have a blast singing some of their favorite holiday tunes. It really is a great way to jump into the holiday season.

## Chorus Corner

The chorus had their holiday concert on December 8<sup>th</sup> with the Intermediate Band and they did a phenomenal job. Congratulations to all of the musicians on an excellent concert. We will be having our holiday party on December 16<sup>th</sup> during lunch and lunch recess so please remember to turn in your Culver's order forms with \$3.00. During the party we will also be watching the cartoon version of 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' and choosing the music for our blacklight concert in the spring. Information will soon be coming home about the upcoming field trip in February, so be on the lookout for that.



Please contact me with any questions. Phone: 847-963-5935 Email: [mcdonouk@ccsd15.net](mailto:mcdonouk@ccsd15.net)