

Pleasant Views

A PTA Publication

Volume 43, Issue 7

Pleasant Hill School

434 West Illinois Avenue

Palatine, IL 60067

Important Dates to Remember

January

12 PTA Meeting
13 Waste Free Lunch
14 Rec Night Boys 5/6
18 No School
19 No School
21 Beginning Band Concert
26 Beginning Orchestra Concert
28 Rec Night 3/4 Girls
29 Gino's Pizza Pickup



February

4 Rec Night 3/4 boys
5 Cougar Carnival
9 PTA Meeting
11 3/4 Musical
12 Valentine Classroom parties
15 No School
16 No School
18 Rec Night 1/2 Girls
25 PH Roller Skating Party
26 Kindergarten PH Pals Show



Principal's Message

Hello everyone and welcome to 2010! I cannot begin to put into words how happy I am that we have reached the most productive stretch of the school year. Let me clarify a bit; this is not the best time of the year (for me, that is autumn), nor is it the most beautiful time of the year (autumn once again), nor is it the most relaxing time of the year (summer). This is the two and a half month window, in the dead of winter, when we are at our most productive at school, where kids and teachers work together like a well-oiled machine cranking out skills, making gains, and are focused without a plethora of distractions. Why is this such a productive ten-week window? Let me explain.

In August and September, teachers are working hard to establish routines, gather preliminary data on all their students, building a classroom community based upon responsibility, respect, following directions, hands & feet to self, and being there and being ready (kudos to you if you recognized those as the "Big Five"!). It's productive, but with so much newness, there is a lot of repetition and clarification taking place.

October is a really productive month, until Halloween week hits. While the holiday itself is only a single day on the calendar, the amount of time spent discussing parties and costumes hurts the kids' focus a bit. Plus, as the weather turns cold and the windows close, the kids demonstrate a real knack for sharing germs as our first wave of sickness hits and a spike in absences ensues.

November has a whole week off for conferences and Thanksgiving, so productivity is bound to slip. In addition, the

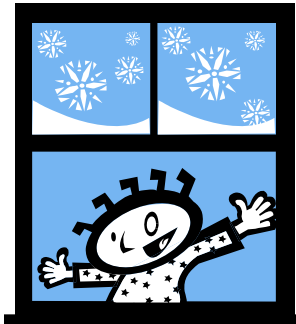
- Matt Palcer, *Principal* Kristy Seifert, *Assistant Principal*
- Margo Ban, *PTA Co-President* Donna Hirsch, *PTA Co-President*
- Jan Sieben and Penny Schmit, *Newsletter Editors*

Principal's message (con't)

first snow fall usually takes place sometime this month which gives all kids a temporary, but severe, case of ADHD.

December...where do I even begin with December? If Halloween dominates the thoughts and consciousness of kids for a week in October, then the Holiday Season certainly distracts the kids for the entire month of December. And why shouldn't they be distracted, as most of the kids have been seeing holiday decorations and advertisements since Labor Day and their diets consist of mainly sugar, peppermint, and chocolate?!?!

But January, February and early March have now arrived, the least distracting ten-week stretch of the year. The kids know routines and can move independently through their days (minus the one-two days it takes to get everyone back on track following break). The teachers have fine-tuned their instruction specifically to student needs with four months worth of data and observations under their belts. The calendar is mostly void of big-ticket holidays. Sure Valentine's Day occurs, but the kids, or at least the boys, keep their excitement over hearts and roses in check. And of course, there is the majesty and splendor of Presidents' Day, but somehow the kids manage to stay focused. I guess it's an executive branch miracle! Sick days decline a bit as the kids have developed enough antibodies after three months in the Petri dish that is their classroom so that they can ward off most sickness. Snow is still exciting, but the newness has worn off. All these factors



lead to a heck of a good run that begins with the return to school following the holidays and ends with the completion of ISAT testing.

In sharing my excitement with you, I'll conclude with asking a favor. As this is the most productive ten-week stretch of the year, I'm asking that we all pull together to do our best to make the most of this opportunity. Please do what you can to get your kids to school, and on time. Please read with them, ask how things are going, and don't settle for "I don't know," when you ask what they learned at school that day. Please communicate with your teachers when you need more information on how to help your children succeed. These are things that 99.9% of our parents do on a daily basis, so simply put, keep it up. At school, we'll continue to challenge your children, hold them accountable, and provide them with the best, most innovative instruction that we can.

Pleasant Hill is one of the most successful elementary schools in the state of Illinois because of the strong partnership between home and school. When school rankings and ISAT reports come out next fall, and we celebrate our school's continued success, we can look back on the cold, dark, grey days of January, February, and March as the time when we put in the hard work that makes that success happen.

Welcome back everyone; it's time to get to work.

~Mr. Palcer

A New Year – A New Assembly Concept

2010 is bringing a change to normal Cultural Arts assemblies. Instead of our kids enjoying assemblies from the comfort of the Multi-purpose room floor, our kids will be experiencing something new after a short bus ride. We will be taking advantage of the performances available at the Metropolis Performing Centre in Arlington Heights.

In February, grades 3rd through 6th will be attending performances of **Frindle**. This play is based on a book by Andrew Clements. The play tells the story of a 5th grader, Nick Allen, who learns how words are created and decides to create a word of his own: “frindle.” Our students will see how the word “frindle” affected Nick’s classmates and the entire town. The 3rd and 4th graders will attend on Thursday, February 4th. The 5th and 6th graders are going the following week on Wednesday, February 10. If you are interested in learning more about Metropolis or the play you can visit its website at <http://www.metropolisarts.com>.

Kindergarten through 2nd grade will be attending a performance of Peter Pan in April. Further information on that performance will come in a later newsletter.

Get Wild about Reading !

The 2009-2010 Six Flags Six Hour Reading Club is underway! The Club is part of Read to Succeed[®], a free language arts program from Six Flags and Weekly Reader. Every Pleasant Hill student who completes 6 hours of recreational reading before the school's deadline (Monday, February 15) is eligible for a free admission ticket valid at participating Six Flags theme parks, including Great America!

- ✎ Review the reading log your child brought home. Your child should use this sheet to record what and how long he/she reads.
- ✎ Your child must complete six hours, or 360 minutes of recreational reading. Please initial each entry and then sign the reading log to show that the six hours of reading has been completed.
- ✎ Your child can read books, magazines, newspapers, or comic books. What doesn't count is reading assigned as homework or a class assignment. Kids can read silently, aloud, or with an adult--you can read to your child or your child can read aloud to you.
- ✎ Remind your child to return the reading log to his/her teacher by the date on the form. Late entries can not be accepted.
- ✎ Tickets will be distributed shortly before the end of the school year.

If you have questions about the program or if you did not receive the reading log, please let the Read to Succeed coordinator, Julie Dickson, know. juliedickson@comcast.net We hope that you have fun encouraging your child to get wild about reading and reach this goal!

Speaking of Reading...

November 100+ AR Points

Alex	Baraban
Lauren	Berryhill
Daniel	Choi
Anthony	Coman
Briana	Coman
Zoe	Draznik
Roshni	Durai
Sarah	Gonwa
Duncan	Harro
Kyle	Heng
Swathy	Karthikeyan
Samantha	Lee
Edward	Li
Akihiro	Nakano
Yulia	Odinokova
Vibha	Pandurangi
Alyssa	Parafinczuk
Keshav	Parthasarathy
Bradley	Posdal
Lisa	Radochonski
Ryan	Rowden
Lauren	Savage
Eden	Schultz
Alex	Van Roon
Melanie	Wang
Finn	Warren

December 100 +AR Points

Anoushka	Ambavanekar
Hayley	Ban
Mackenzie	Bednarek
Isabella	Buccieri
Haley	Farrahar
Grace	Haffner
Ryan	Hansen
Maria	Kanellos
Garrett	Kolderup
James	Le Fevre
Ashley	Lehan
Travis	Ligon
John	McDonnell
Anyia	Mittal
Hanna	Murakami
Thomas	Novak
Ken	Ooka
Paul	Ponte
Michael	Rowden
Alexander	Schillinger
Connor	Sorensen
Julia	Wacker
Ian	Wojcik
Jonathan	Yi

Gino's East Pizza orders

Once again this month, Pleasant Hill's PTA is partnering with the District 15 Educational Foundation to provide Gino's East pizzas for purchase. Order forms went home this week, and they are due by next Friday, January 15th. The pizzas are \$12.00 each, and the PTA and the Foundation split a \$5.00 take on each pizza sold. Pizzas are delivered to Pleasant Hill on Friday, January 29th, where folks can pick up their orders between 3pm and 4pm in the cafeteria that day. Check 'em out! (**Order form also on Page 10**)

Holiday Shop

Mouse pencil sharpener...\$0.50, Bracelet for Mom...\$4.00, Mug for Dad...\$5.00, Excitement on a child's face after making a holiday purchase...*PRICELESS!* THANK YOU to all the volunteers and staff who helped at this year's Holiday Shop. We couldn't have done it without you!

Sherri Lamerand & Kim Dunne, Holiday Shop Chairs

Anna & Arianna Fiore
Sheila Cassato
June Sheehan
Colleen Novak
Mr. Mike

Michelle Wakamiya
Pat Jandura
Jeannie McMillian
Mr. Palcer
Mr. John

Marcia Thompson
Dianne & Josh Kraus
Lezlie Hill
Mrs. Seifert



THANK YOU

New Laws...

Beginning January 1, a number of new laws go into effect in Illinois.

Arguably the most significant law involves electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, etc) while driving. It will now be against the law to compose, send, or read an electronic message, such as an e-mail, instant message or text, while driving. Drivers will also be prohibited from surfing the web. It will not be illegal to do any of the above while parked on the side of the road or while stopped in traffic if the vehicle is in park or neutral.



It will be against the law beginning January 1 for drivers to use a cell phone in a school speed zone area or a work zone area.

Boxtops, Boxtops, Boxtops

Happy New Year to Everyone! I hope everyone has been collecting all those Boxtops, soup labels and chicken bag logos.

Remember to look for the Fast Fixins logo on bags of chicken at Jewel Food Stores (information sheets went home at the beginning of winter break). This logo is worth 30 cents each! With Super bowl coming up, Tyson chicken & Fast Fixins are great for appetizers—and the labels are worth cash back to us. Check them out at www.fastfixin.com and www.tyson.com/projectaplus.

Boxtops has a few local promotions going on right now—get 50 bonus Boxtops at checkout with the purchase of \$20 of General Mills products. Go to www.BTFE.com for more details (check under local bonus offers).

Another brand to remember is Avery office products. A lot of their products now carry the Boxtops for Education logo. As the New Year starts, everyone can use some stickers and folders to keep them organized—as well as get ready for tax time! Keep your eyes opened for these products—look around at your office for Avery products—get your office to support Pleasant Hill by keeping a collection box in the office!

Boxtops contests are in the works! Save those logos! We will be mixing up the contests with some class competitions as well as individual contests. Check back for more details.

Chris Howard-Menk, howardmenk@comcast.net



Plum Grove Annual Blood Drive

Help others in need by donating your blood. Information regarding appointment setting will be communicated via in-school flyers. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Stop by and give the gift of life!

Date: Wednesday, January 27th

Time: 2:30pm to 8:30pm

Location: Plum Grove Activity Center



Environmental Education

Happy 2010! Let's make this our greenest year yet!

So, the holiday break is over—in case you're still in denial (not just a river in Egypt!)—and as much as I was loving my Christmas decorations in my house and the baked goods I created, I am SO ready to get rid of those and many more items in my home! It's time to purge!

You may be feeling this way as well, so I wanted to remind you all that purging can be done in an environmentally friendly manner. Yes, it's more work to organize the stuff and get it to where it's got to go, but it will help you keep that New Year's resolution to become a greener citizen of this planet!



Pleasant Hill has already committed to a green school year with less paper being generated by both students and staff. The Pleasant Hill PTA has also committed to a greener year with an electronic newsletter and the

continued collection of both cell phones and used athletic shoes. Cell phones are collected at the front office and then mailed to Motorola as part of their Race to Recycle program in which our school receives up to \$3.00 per phone sent in. Athletic shoes are collected in a bin just outside the front office from September until April each year. The shoes are sent to Nike as part of their Reuse-a-Shoe program in which old athletic shoes are ground up and made into various sports surfaces such as tracks, basketball courts, and tennis courts. Please bring your used cell phones and athletic shoes to school so that we can recycle them for you!

It's easy to get rid of items in our homes that work—clothes our children have grown out of, home decorations that we no longer use, bikes and other play items that our families have outgrown. We can simply take these things to resale shops or donate them to charities so they can be passed on to others to use again. But what about items that are not reusable? The list below should help—take a look and see what you can do to get what you want to purge to the right place . . .

Resale Shops—Google 'resale shops, palatine il' to get a list of thrift stores in the area; call first to see what kinds of things they'll accept; also great places to shop!

Donation Organizations—visit http://www.ilamvets.org/donate_pickup.cfm or <http://www.pickupplease.org/VVA/Clothing-Donation.aspx?oskwdid=4050925&qclid=Cl-exZOllpkCFQKbnAodDDBoaw> to schedule a pickup at your home of clothing and household items; how convenient!

PADS—this organization provides shelter and food to those without permanent residences; during the cold-weather season, they often look for donations of gloves or coats, etc.; see PADS locations at <http://www.padstohope.org/padslocation.html> and contact them to see what their needs are

What about the broken stuff? Look for the recycling symbol and check the village website (<http://www.palatine.il.us/residents/refuse-recycling.aspx>) for what can be recycled. For everything else, try repurposing things in crafting activities—be creative! Take jeans, for instance—there are LOTS (a scary amount, actually) of websites dedicated to crafting projects that use unwearable jeans to make various usable items. See <http://www.flickr.com/groups/denimsurgery/> for just a few examples!

Bottom line—think first before throwing stuff out. I understand the deep desire to just get the stuff out of your house (I'm totally with ya!), but once you get started organizing your tossables, it'll get easier and maybe even fun. Get your friends together to join in, and make it a group effort! And have a green beginning to this new year!

Margo Ban
Environmental Educator



Multicultural Fest 2010

Calling all cultural groups

The 2nd Multicultural Fest will be held on Friday, April 9th, 2010. Planning is underway and it's time for cultural groups to join us. Now we have 6 cultural groups:

India

Italy

Japan

Korea

Mexico

Poland

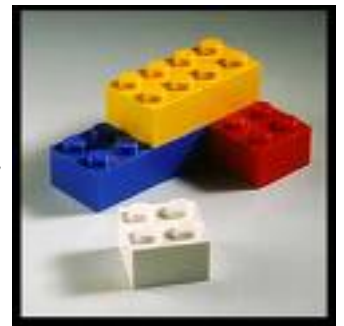


We would like to have more and we don't want to miss your culture. We are also in need of volunteers to lead an American cultural group.

If you would like your culture represented or to help out at the Multicultural Fest, please contact Yukari Lofton (847-359-1578 or yukari@lofton.net) or Rita Poklacki (847-204-8174 or rita.poklacki@bairdwarner.com).

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 parade, performance, food, activities (games), and pre-event displays. Each cultural group will represent their culture within these categories (not necessary to participate in all categories).

Congratulations to the Lego League Team (Double Trouble) from Pleasant Hill who competed in the regional tournament held at Quest Academy. They received fifth place overall and first place for their research project. These placements have earned them a trip to the state finals to be held in early January. Team members from PH are: Chiranth Kishore, Eshwar Kishore, Ryan Jannak-Huang, Kyle Jannak-Huang and Keshev Parthasarthy. The team coach is Mr. Kishore. Please congratulate them on all their hard work when you have a chance.



Helping Families Make Wise Food Choices for the New Year

Lisa Fleming

Happy New Year everyone. For many of us, it's the time when we resolve to live a healthier lifestyle. Sometimes, though, I find myself making a salad for myself and then serving something else to my kids so I don't have to listen to the whining. Silly, I know. Pta.org offers some tips on helping the entire family make wise food choices in the New Year:

- ✿ Lead by example. If they see you starting the day with a latte and donut, they'll believe sugar and caffeine are wise breakfast choices.
- ✿ Teach them how to read food labels for nutritional content and to choose foods that are low in fat, sugar, and sodium. Make an effort to reduce the amount of processed foods that your children eat.
- ✿ Rid the pantry of the junk and have plenty of healthy foods on hand.
- ✿ Be creative. Bring new wholesome food into the house. I recently bought some pomegranates and my kids loved them.
- ✿ Allow your kids to cook with you and let them help plan the week's meals.
- ✿ Dine together as a family. Discourage mindless eating in front of the TV or on the run.
- ✿ Resist the temptation to give food as a reward.
- ✿ Remind your kids that if they nourish their bodies with healthy foods, they'll feel happier and more energetic.
- ✿ Have a very happy and healthy 2010!

From Your National PTA/ www.PTA.org

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 well as in print, as requested by Pleasant Hill families, staff, and community members.



Gino's East Pizza is coming to Pleasant Hill School!

District Fifteen Educational Foundation and the Pleasant Hill PTA are working together to "Raise Some Dough" for Education.

Serve your family delicious Gino's East 9" deep dish pizza. Select from 4 different pizza types for only \$12.00 each. The pizza's are made fresh for District 15 families, then flash frozen and delivered to our school. Ask friends and other family members to order pizzas or just order for your own family to enjoy!

Simply fill out the form below and return it to the Pleasant Hill Office with your payment in an envelope marked "Gino's East".

Student Name: _____

ORDER DUE DATE: January 15, 2010

Pick up Date and Time: Friday, January 29 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Pick up Location: Pleasant Hill Cafeteria

Name	Phone	Cheese	Sausage	Pepperoni	Spinach	Total	Total
Total Number							

Total Pizzas _____ X \$12.00 = Total Amount
Paid _____

Make checks payable to: **District Fifteen Educational Foundation**
PROCEEDS FROM THIS FUNDRAISER BENEFIT THE DISTRICT FIFTEEN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AND THE PLEASANT HILL PTA. THE FOUNDATION AND PTA WILL EACH RECEIVE \$2.50 FROM EVERY PIZZA PURCHASED.

Cougar Carnival Communication



SPONSORED BY YOUR PLEASANT HILL PTA

Cougar Carnival

Friday, February 5th—5:30pm to 8:00pm

Cougar Carnival is back for 2010! This annual Pleasant Hill Family event will be held on Feb. 5th from 5:30pm to 8:00pm at the school. Come join the fun where there is food, games and fun for everyone. Read this newsletter for all the details!

Take the Bus and Win!

The Cougar Carnival bus will be running again this year from the Birchwood back parking to the back entrance of the school. Everyone who takes the bus will be entered in a raffle! Details on the bus route and raffle entry form will be sent home the week of the event.

Tickets

Admission is free, but tickets are required for food, games and Cougar Counter items.

Avoid long lines and pre-order your tickets. If you order before Fri. Jan 29th receive 5 tickets for \$1. Complete the form on the back page to order. Pick-up your pre-order on Thu, Feb 4th from 3:15pm to 3:45pm or Fri, Feb 5th from 8:30am-9am and 3:15pm to 3:45pm by the back entrance. Only adults can pick-up tickets.

Food Glorious Food!

Subway sandwiches are available for \$3 when you pre-order by Jan 29th. No sandwiches will be sold at the event. Complete the form on the back page to order.

Other food items available the night of the event are:

- Beverages—2 tickets
- Chips—2 tickets
- Popcorn—2 tickets
- Cotton Candy—2 tickets
- Blizzards—6 tickets

Games for Everyone

Carnival games are located in the Gym, Hallways, Art Room and the Teachers' Lounge. Most games cost between 1-2 tickets.

Calling All Volunteers

Come and show your support for this event and volunteer for a shift or two. It takes over 130 volunteers to run the event. We need people for set-up and to work the event from 5:30pm to 6:45pm and 6:45pm to 8pm. Complete the form on the back page if you can help..

Shop at Cougar Carnival

Cougar Pride items, such as pencils, erasers and zipper pulls will be available to redeem on the stage in the Café. Items range from 1—5 tickets each.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan 29:

- Pre-order food & tickets
- Sign-up to Volunteer
- Sign-up for Cake Walk
- Enter Cake Decorating Contest

Feb 4 , 3:15pm-3:45pm:

- Pick-up pre-order tickets

Feb 5, before and afterschool:

- Pick-up pre-order tickets

Feb 5, 8am-4pm:

- Drop off entries for cake contest
- Drop off donations for cake walk

**Feb 5, 5:30pm-8:00pm
Cougar Carnival**

KEY CONTACTS

General Questions:

Colleen Novak
847-705-6517
colnovak@sbcglobal.net

Volunteers, Cake Decorating & General Questions:

Donna Hirsch
847-934-3071
gredonhirsch@yahoo.com

Tickets:

Melissa Larsen
847-991-4901
mklarsen@comcast.net

Subway Sandwiches::

Kristen Berryhill
847-359-8079
kristenberryhill@comcast.net

Cake Walk:

Chris Barto
847-934-9378
chris.barto@sbcglobal.net

Cougar Carnival Hot Spots

Coat Check:
Resource Center

Food: Cafe

Bingo:
Teacher's Lounge

Cake Walk:
Art Room

Cougar Counter &
Cake Decorating:
Stage in Café

Grade K-2 Prize
Room:
Room 201

Grade 3-6 Prize
Room:
Music Room

Roar in Red!

Let's show our
Cougar Pride by
wearing red
and/or any
Pleasant Hill
attire to the
Cougar Carnival.



Cougar Carnival Communication

Prize Redemption

Each child will receive a punch card they can carry or wear around their neck. 1-2 punches will be given on their card for playing/winning a game. At the end of the night, the punch card can be taken to the appropriate prize rooms to be redeemed.

The Grade K-2 prize room will be in Room 201. The Grade K-2 children will earn a "surprise" bag with prizes based on the number of punches they earn.

The Grade 3-6 prize room will be in the Music Room. The Grade 3-6 children will have a selection of prizes to choose from based on the number of punches they earn.

Security & Parking

This event is only for current Pleasant Hill students and their immediate family members. No child will be admitted without a parent/guardian. All children are required to wear wristbands which will be with ticket pre-orders and at the back entrance.

For security reasons, the only entrance will be through the back entrance. If you take the bus, you will be dropped off right there!

Cake Decorating Contest

Calling all ace of cakes for the 2nd annual decorating contest! Decorate a cake any way you like... you pick the theme. The cakes will be displayed on the stage so vote for your favorite cake from 5:30pm until 7pm. All cakes will then be raffled off during the cake walk. Winners can pick up their cake at the end of the night. Fill out the attached entry form and return to the Office by Jan. 29th. Drop your cake off at school on the designated tables in the front or back entrances on Feb 5th between 8am and 4pm. **Be sure to put your name and your phone number on your cake!**



Cake Walk

We are looking for donations of cookies, cupcakes, brownies or other treats. Simply fill out the form on the back page and return it to the Office if you can help. Divide treats into a serving for 2-3 people. For example, 2-3 cupcakes or 4-6 cookies per plate. Place the items on disposable plates and wrap in clear plastic. Drop off your treats on the designated tables in the front or back entrances on Friday, Feb 5th from 8am to 4pm.

VEHICLES PARKED IN THE FIRE LANES MAY BE TOWED BY THE POLICE.



COUGAR CARNIVAL PRE-ORDER SANDWICH FORM

Fill out the form below and return with cash or check payable to **“Pleasant Hill PTA”** in an envelope marked **“Cougar Carnival”** to the Office by **Fri, Jan 29th**. Please note you can write one check for both the tickets and sandwiches. Any questions - contact Kristen Berryhill at kristenberryhill@comcast.net or (847) 359-8079.

Family Name:		Phone Number:		
# of Subway Sandwiches at \$3.00 each	Turkey:	Ham:	Veggie:	

COUGAR CARNIVAL PRE-ORDER TICKET FORM

Fill out the form below and return with cash or check payable to **“Pleasant Hill PTA”** in an envelope marked **“Cougar Carnival”** to the Office by **Fri, Jan 29th**. Please note you can write one check for both the tickets and sandwiches. Any questions-contact Melissa Larsen at mklarsen@comcast.net or (847) 991-4901.

Family Name:		Phone Number:		
Total # of Family Members Attending:		# of Adults:		# of Children:
# of Tickets Needed (5 Tickets for \$1)	Total # of Tickets =		Total \$ =	

COUGAR CARNIVAL CAKE WALK DONATION FORM

If you are able to bake or buy any cupcakes, cookies or brownies—fill out the form below and return to the Office by **Fri, Jan 29th**. Any questions - contact Chris Barto at chris.barto@sbcglobal.net or 847-934-9378.

Name:	Phone Number:
Email	

COUGAR CARNIVAL CAKE DECORATING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

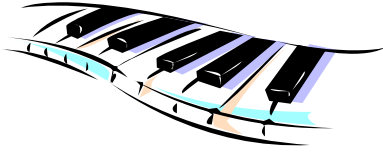
To enter the Cake Decorating Contest, fill out the form below and return to the Office by **Fri, Jan 29th**. Any questions - contact Donna Hirsch at gredonhirsch@yahoo.com or 847-934-3071.

Name:	Phone Number:
Email	

COUGAR CARNIVAL VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP FORM

To volunteer, complete the form below and return it to the Office or email gredonhirsch@yahoo.com with the information by **Fri, Jan 29th**. Any questions—contact Donna Hirsch at gredonhirsch@yahoo.com or 847-934-3071.

Name:		Phone Number:		
Email:				
Youngest Child’s Name:			Youngest Child’s Teacher:	
Circle Shift Preference	5:30—6:45pm	6:45pm—8:00pm	No Preference	Both



The Music Room

Program Schedule:

February 11th – 3/4 Musical

March 11th – 1/2 Musical

April 15th – Chorus Concert

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

Composer Craze

The 6th graders have now begun work on their composer projects during the month of January. They are working in groups of two or three to research an assigned composer and then present the information to the class during the month of February. Project guidelines and a grading rubric were sent out at the beginning of the month, but the project is very open ended so the students have a lot of room to be creative. Last year we had skits, game shows, power points and more so really encourage your child to think outside the box on the project.

Musical Madness

The 3rd and 4th graders are getting ready for their musical coming up next month called *It's Saturday!* Speaking parts and solos have been assigned and everyone is doing a great job singing. Please be on the look-out for a form coming home about costume suggestions, props needed, and information regarding the night of the performance. DVD order forms will be coming home soon as well.



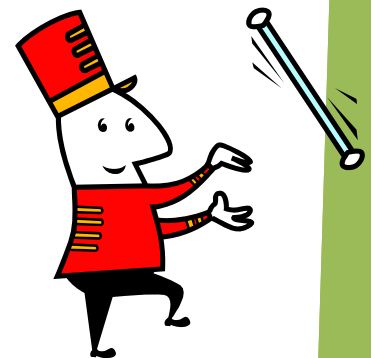
Rhythm Rage

The 5th graders are working on rhythm compositions this month in small groups. They start with a poem and then decipher the syllabic rhythm, notate that rhythm and then add body motions and instruments to each part. I am anxious to see the performances of everyone's composition. I am sure they will turn out great!



Chorus Corner

Cougar Chorus will be going on a field trip to the Prairie Community Center in Des Plaines to see the musical production of 'The Music Man'. This show is done by children and young adults so it will be interesting for them to see performers their own age singing and acting. The field trip is scheduled for Thursday, February 18th so please get your permission slips in by February 1st. Also please turn in the chaperone form if you would like to join us. We could use four parents to help supervise the event. Chorus has also begun working on the Blacklight Concert music and they are getting very excited to put on that show in April.



Please contact me with any questions. Phone: 847-963-5935 Email: mcdonouk@ccsd15.net

This event is also open to 6th grade parents with or without their 6th grade students.



Communicating with your teen. . .

Northwest Suburban Council of PTAs/PTSAs presents a workshop for junior high students and parents

INDEPENDENCE HIGHWAY

Independence Highway is a program designed by the Society for the Preservation of Human Dignity. The program provides parents and teens the opportunity to discuss topics including healthy sexuality and relationships, both together and with their peers, in a facilitated learning environment.



Pta logo

Independence Highway Program Events:

Whole Group: The evening begins with a parent and student quiz about the evening's curriculum.

Split Groups: Parents: Brain development in teens
Students: Peer pressure, goal setting, media messages

Whole Group: The evening concludes with a discussion on pregnancy and STDs/STIs and a question and answer period.

Choose the presentation that fits your family's schedule!

Girls and Parents	January 20	6:45pm—8:45pm	Plum Grove Jr. High
Boys and Parents	January 25	6:45pm—8:45pm	Plum Grove Jr. High
Girls and Parents	February 11	6:45pm—8:45pm	Walter R. Sundling Jr. High
Boys and Parents	February 18	6:45pm—8:45pm	Walter R. Sundling Jr. High

Students from all district 15 junior high schools are invited to attend any of the sessions listed above.
Please RSVP to Linda Millar, NWSC PTA Health & Safety Chair at linmillar@comcast.net.
For more information about the curriculum, please visit www.sphd.org.

Events held at Sundling Jr. High are co-sponsored by the Sundling PTA Parent Education Committee.
Plum Grove Junior High is located at 2600 Plum Grove Road in Rolling Meadows.
Sundling Junior High is located at 1100 North Smith Street in Palatine.