



A PTA Publication

# Pleasant Views

Pleasant Hill School, A National School of Excellence

434 W. Illinois Ave. - Palatine, IL 60067

Volume 40, Issue 12

March 3, 2006



## Principal's Message

Dear Pleasant Hill Parents and Guardians,

**Our ISAT Standardized Testing is quickly approaching! The testing window is March 6<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup>. This year, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will all take the ISAT in the areas of reading and math; 4<sup>th</sup> graders will also be tested in science.**

**The best way for you to help your child perform well on the ISATs is to make sure he/she has a good night's sleep each night of testing and a good, healthy breakfast each morning. Please send a**

healthy snack to school with your child as well. My oldest child just took the Iowa's recently, so I truly understand the anxiety parents feel during standardized testing! Try not to pass that anxiety on to your child; our students at Pleasant Hill are very well prepared for the ISATs. If you have any questions about standardized testing, please contact your child's teacher, Mr. Palcer or myself. See more information about the ISATs below.

### Coffee with the Principal Update

The January Coffee With the Principal was very well attended. Mr.

*(continued on next page)*

Mary Geregach, *Principal*

Matt Palcer, *Assistant Principal*

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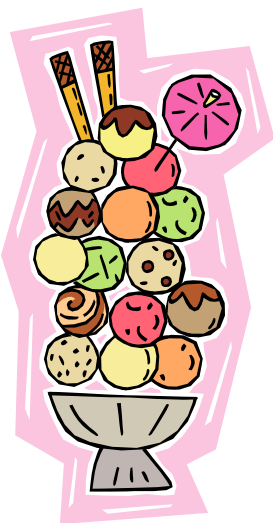
## Dates to Remember

March 3 (Fri)	Market Day Orders Due to Office
March 6-10, 13-17	ISAT Testing—Grades 3, 4, 5, 6
March 6 (Mon)	Market Day Internet Order Cut Off
March 7 (Tue)	Grades 1 & 2 Music Program—7:00PM Spark Meeting at Plum Grove—7:00PM
March 8 (Wed)	Board of Ed. Meeting at Sundling—7:00PM
March 9 (Thur)	Market Day Pick-Up
March 10 (Fri)	Report Cards for Grades 1 thru 6
March 14 (Tue)	PTA Board Mtg—7:00PM
March 15 (Wed)	Blood Drive at Sundling—2:30PM TO 9:00PM
March 21 (Tue)	Child Abduction Awareness Workshop—7:00 TO 8:00PM in Pleasant Hill Cafe
March 22 (Wed)	Board of Ed. Meeting at Sundling—7:00PM
March 27-31	Spring Break





**Watch out for  
the Spring  
BoxTops  
Contest...  
You could win  
FREE  
Ice Cream!**



Check out the  
PTA website  
today:

[www.phpta.org](http://www.phpta.org)

This newsletter is  
funded by the  
Pleasant Hill PTA  
and is produced by  
Pleasant Hill PTA  
Volunteers.

*Continued from page 1*

Tieman, Mr. Palcer and I shared information about ISAT testing. Parents asked excellent questions and we had a great discussion about preparing students for the ISATs. One website that gives excellent information about the ISATs can be found at [www.isbe.net/](http://www.isbe.net/) assessment. There will be no February coffee due to the shortened month and the focus on ISAT preparation. Information about a March coffee will be shared later.

#### **Traffic Notes**

- I am sorry to report that we had a fender bender in our parking lot during the Valentine's Day parties. One of our teachers discovered as she neared her car after school that it had been hit in the parking lot. I called the police to come fill out a report. Please be extra careful at all times in our parking lot and be sure to report any accidents to the owner of the vehicle or the police.
- **Good news:** Our double parking situation after school is improving—thank you for pulling over all the way to the curb before encouraging your children to enter or exit your car.
- Please remember that parking on Bennett or at Birchwood is an excellent alternative to battling our

crowded drive through lane in back of the school.

**As the weather warms:** Please remind your children that scooters and bicycles **must** be walked on school property during drop off and pick up. Skate boards and roller blades are **never** allowed at school. Roller shoes can be worn **only** if the wheel is removed from the shoe.

**Dogs** are not allowed on school property during student drop off and pick up, or any time during the school day when school is in session. Even the friendliest family pet can be easily spooked in a noisy crowd and behave in an unusual way. Thanks for helping to keep our students safe!

**Attention Scout and other Club Leaders:** As you know, you are welcome to use our facilities with the proper reservations. It is important to note that animals are not allowed in the school at any time for scout/club projects, presentations, etc. If you have any questions about this, please contact Mr. Palcer or myself.

If you have any questions, please call me at (847) 963-5900 or send me an e-mail: [geregacm@ccsd15.net](mailto:geregacm@ccsd15.net).

Sincerely,

*Mary C. Geregach*

## **Child Abduction Awareness Workshop**

**When: March 21st, 7-8 pm**

**Where: Pleasant Hill School Café**

**Please join us and**

**“Take a Bite Out of Crime in Palatine”**

**Presented by the Palatine Police Crime Prevention Department**

*Because of the sensitivity of the subject matter, some of the material is not appropriate for children under the age of 7 years.*



## March Market Day Special!

Get a **FREE** 12" Cheese Pizza! This popular pizza will be a hit with your family, and you'll get it free if you purchase two qualifying Market Day items.

- March 6th (noon): Internet orders due
- March 9th (3:00PM): Pick up

*If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Johnston: 359-3003 or Lisa Nunley: 934-1688.*

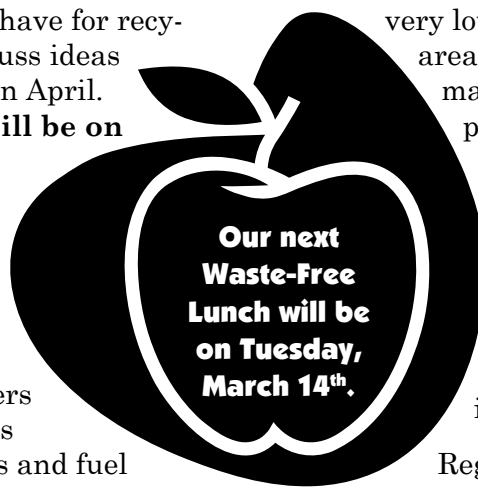
## Environmental Education

At our February Waste-Free Lunch, we again handed out tickets to all students who either brought a waste-free lunch (only two garbage items) or properly recycled the items in their hot lunches. Two names were drawn from each lunch period, and prizes of all-organic snacks were awarded to the winners on Thursday's televised announcements. We also had two Earth Club meetings in February. The first one was used to again prepare the many shoes we have for recycling. The second was used to discuss ideas for celebrating Earth Day Month in April. Our next **Earth Club meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**—watch the bulletin board for location!

I must be good if I can find environmental opportunities at the Auto Show (let's face it, I had to do something there)! It was interesting to note that some automakers were offering hybrid vehicles—cars that use a combination of batteries and fuel as power—while others weren't. It was also interesting to see the price difference between non-hybrid and hybrid vehicles of the same make and model. According to the 2006 Chicago Auto Show Official Guide, that difference is \$5,000 or more, one of the factors discouraging some people from hybrids today.

Hybrid vehicles, designed to conserve fuel and reduce emissions, are now being joined by vehicles that run on E85 fuel, which was part of a HUGE

GM display at the Auto Show this year (you may have seen commercials for this since they're on about a 100 times a day!). More and more automakers are adapting their vehicles to run on E85, an 85% ethanol fuel that boosts power and reduces emissions. The drawbacks of E85 are that it doesn't provide as much mileage as a gallon of gasoline, making the reduction of gasoline use less significant, and that the number of stations offering it is very low (mostly in the south suburban area of Chicago, it looked like from the maps that GM had up in their display). Then there's hydrogen fuel cell vehicles that will burn no petroleum and emit no harmful gases. These, however, are very pricey (up to \$15,000 more than the same make and model in a gas-burning vehicle) and somewhat scarce, as are hydrogen fueling stations.



Regardless of the drawbacks of hybrid vehicles, alternative fuels like E85, or hydrogen fuel cells, the point is that we're trying to get ourselves off the gasoline habit, and environmental reasons are only part of the motivation to do so. So, watch for coming innovations, and support them if you can. A great website to visit just to read up on some of this is [www.greencarcongress.com](http://www.greencarcongress.com). It's got great articles concerning environmental issues in the auto industry as well as in other fields. Happy reading!

# Give Your Kids Chores!

*Tips From Your Parent  
Education Committee*

You have a chore to do around the house, and your kids want to help out somehow. You know that it might be nice for them to help, but also that it might turn into a two-hour project and there might be a big mess to clean up ... a mess that could be avoided if you did it yourself.

We've all been there, haven't we?

It can be so much easier to do the household chores and projects without the assistance from your little friends. After all, who's got the time in today's world to make a project longer than it needs to be?

You do.

## **Research supports it: Chores are relevant**

Why is it important to include your kids in household tasks? Researcher Marty Rossman at the University of Minnesota studied a group of young adults from the time they were young children. The startling results of the study were that the **young adults who had participated in household chores when they were ages 3 and 4 were more successful** as adults than those who didn't. Specifically, these young adults were more likely to:

- complete their education,
- get a good start on a career,
- develop adult relationships, and
- avoid the use of drugs.

The early participation in household chores was deemed more important in their success than any other factor, including IQ. On the other hand, if children did not begin participating in household chores until they were teenagers, the experience seemed to backfire and had a negative effect on

their success as young adults, using those same measures.

### **You can do it!**

What does this research really mean? When your young kids feel as though their dad or mom believes they're capable of handling simple chores around the house, it is an incredibly powerful message to



them. "Dad believes I can do it!"

If your kids believe that's how you feel about them as they go through life, you're a genius. You'll also be the parent of confident, responsible, happy kids. That's what you create when

you choose to see your kids as capable and you believe in them.

But it's not as easy as just seeing them as capable. You also have to show patience with them when they tackle chores. You can't take over for them when they struggle or correct what they do. That only serves to undermine their confidence and discourage them.

Imagine the difference you can make with your kids by allowing them to participate in family chores. Imagine the difference in your kids' esteem level that results from encouraging them rather than criticizing them.

You do have time to include your kids in chores and projects at home. Tell every other father and mother you know that they have time, too. It's too important not to.

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## **How Can Your PTA Website Help You *TODAY*?**

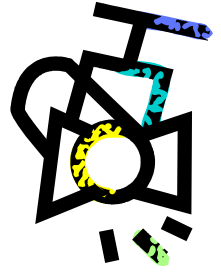
Join fellow Pleasant Hill families who have accessed our PTA website for quick and easy access to information, links to other sites, and a variety of forms, including:

- PTA Board meeting minutes
- Up-to-date calendars with latest PH events
- PTA forms (i.e., manna, volunteer hours, etc)
- Links to a number of helpful websites
- Latest news and upcoming events

Check it out right now...[www.phpta.org](http://www.phpta.org)

# Spotlight on the Board

## Notes from the February District 15 School Board Meetings



*Spotlight on the Board* is a collection of notes taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Pleasant Hill PTAs' District 15 liaison, Susan Quinn. They are meant to help parents and staff who are unable to attend the Board meetings on a regular basis to keep informed about the issues and plans affecting the district. Below are the highlights from the February 8<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meetings.

### February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006

1. Board votes (4:3) to restructure \$22M in bonds for Life/Safety funding

*Editorial Note: Bond restructuring is an important, but complicated issue. I have provided a synopsis of the Bond Restructuring issue on the website ([www.phpta.org](http://www.phpta.org)), along with links to relevant Board handouts and Daily Herald articles.*

- a) **Keenan, Rowden, Millar opposed:** don't want to extend debt with high cost to taxpayers, borrowing just to have money in reserves; believe we can pay for immediate Life/Safety needs with money levied from Transportation Fund; want to go year-by-year, wait until teacher's contract is negotiated and next year's bonds are released.
- b) **Mikula, Boucher, Silverman, Carlson for:** want to have reserves to be financially prudent; don't want to pay for Life/Safety from current funds, need bond restructuring to pay for it; want to get rid of CAB's (Capital Appreciation Bonds).

2. Fire Department Field Trips for 5<sup>th</sup> grade restored
3. Board approves purchase of 4 new buses
4. Student Dental Exams: waivers available for summertime exams and low-income services provided on-site at schools by Smile Illinois
5. Jr. High Social Studies texts approved by Board. Parents will have access to all on-line materials. Next meeting will present Math Curriculum for Grades 3-6.

### February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006

- Bond restructuring was pulled from the agenda, and will be on the agenda for the March 8<sup>th</sup> BOE "Regular" meeting.
- 2006-07 proposed Operations and Maintenance Budget presented (see handout at [www.phpta.org](http://www.phpta.org)): Both "A: urgent" and some "B: need to be done" items included in expenses.
- Board invites PTA to gather top-10 list of "issues" affecting each school, to be presented and discussed at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> BOE meeting. Lists will be shared with all schools.

Full February 8<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting notes, as well as previous *Spotlight on the Board* meeting notes, can be found at Pleasant Hill PTA's web site: [www.phpta.org](http://www.phpta.org). Next Board meeting is Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 7 pm at Sundling Jr. High. **Email questions directly to Board members (see [www.phpta.org](http://www.phpta.org) for email addresses) or to Superintendent McKanna: [McKannaR@ccsd15.net](mailto:McKannaR@ccsd15.net)).**

## Manna Needs Your Help!!

**M**anna is looking for *help*! I need one or two volunteers to place orders, sort out gift cards and deliver them to teacher's mailboxes one week each month. Time commitment is about 1-3 hours per week. If we get enough volunteers, Manna could go back to weekly orders! **Please** consider helping out this new, but growing, fundraising opportunity for Pleasant Hill!!

*If you would be interested in helping out, please contact me at: [susan.quinn@comcast.net](mailto:susan.quinn@comcast.net).*

# Yearbook Facts 2005-2006

This years' theme is "*Wild About Learning.*"

The yearbook has **72 pages**, including 16 full-color pages.

The yearbook does ***not make a profit***, and expenses to create the yearbook are ***funded by the PTA.***



The yearbook takes over ***five hundred volunteer hours*** to create.

The yearbook committee takes ***thousands of photos***, and the Pleasant Hill community has shared more photos this year than any other!

The yearbook committee/PTA ***donates a framed montage*** created from original pages to the school each year. Most of these are located near the cafe.

The yearbook committee/PTA ***donates a framed photo of the 6th grade class*** each year. These can be seen in the entry hall.

***No orders have been taken for the Pleasant Hill yearbook yet.***

The yearbook committee must pay a \$4800 deposit on March 23rd. The ordering process has become much too drawn out and confusing over the past few years, and there will be changes in the ordering process this year:

- Pre-Orders will be taken March 3 - 17 only.
- ONE order form will be sent home on March 3rd.
- Additional order forms will be available in the school office.

The cost is **\$12.50** for orders with payment received **by March 17**. The Zoom insert (a full color year-in-review mini-magazine produced by Lifetouch and taped into the back of the yearbook by the yearbook committee) will be available for \$1.50 for orders with payment received by March 17 ONLY.

The cost of the yearbook after March 17 will be **\$15.00**.

***Zoom will not be available.*** Priority for any extra yearbooks will be given first to 6th graders, then new students, then others.

***The yearbook is distributed to the classes in early June.***

***Order questions? Laura Shrout 847.934.8016***

***Yearbook questions? Jennifer Draznik 847.358.7579***



## Substitute Registered Nurses Needed For All Schools!

- \$90.00 daily
- 6.5 hours per day
- Work on an as needed basis.
- Orientation/Training is mandatory

***Contact the Personnel Department if you are interested: 847-963-3009.***