

Pleasant Views

A PTA Publication

Volume 42, Issue 8

Pleasant Hill School

434 West Illinois Avenue

Palatine, IL 60067

Important Dates to Remember



March

- 4 Waste Free Lunch
- 5 Boys grade 1/2 rec. night 7-8p.m.
- 6 Report Cards grades 1-6
- 8 Daylight Savings
- 10 PH night at Culvers
- 11 Board of Education Mtg. 7p.m.
- 12 Grade 1/2 Musical 9:15a.m. & 7p.m.
- 17 PTA Meeting
- 19 PH Roller Skating Party 6:30-9p.m.
- 23—27 Spring Break—No School
- 30 Back to school

April

- 1 Board of Education Mtg. 7p.m.
- 2 Girls 5/6 Rec. Night 7-8p.m.
- 9 Boys 5/6 Rec. Night 7-8p.m.
- 10 No School
- 14 PTA Meeting
- 14 Kindergarten Registration
- 17 Moms & Munchies A—L 8 a.m.
- 24 Moms & Munchies M-Z 8 a.m.



PTA Presidents' Message

Dear Pleasant Hill Parents and Guardians,

Whew, this month went fast! You? There were A LOT of activities (I warned you!), but they were pretty fun, provided us some much-needed indoor activity during the cold winter months, and helped keep our minds off the whole winter thing in general. Did you know that the PTA funds many of these activities? Yessirreebob (seriously, just spelling this phrase does not seem to have the same hick effect I was going for!)! The fundraiser the PTA holds each year in the fall funds these activities and more all school year long. So, the Cougar Carnival, the musicals, the Variety Show, the Rec Nights, the Reflections Showcase, the Abraham Lincoln assembly—all of those activities that all of our students and their families could and did enjoy were funded by or received money from the PTA.

I want you to know this because I want you to know that the PTA looks for fundraising opportunities that the Pleasant Hill community will enjoy participating in, and it uses those funds to benefit all students of Pleasant Hill. The PTA will have a new fundraiser in the coming school year, and I encourage you all to voice your opinions as to what it should be or what you as Pleasant Hill parents and (hopefully!) PTA members would like to see in that area. The PTA counts on all of our support each year—whether it be through fundraising efforts or volunteering or both. PTA is and always has been all about the people that are part of it. Judging from the events we've experienced thus far this school year, we have a standout parent community here, and I am once again feeling so lucky to have

Continued on next page...

- Matt Palcer, *Principal* ● Kristy Seifert, *Assistant Principal*
- Margo Ban, *PTA President* ● PTA Website: www.phpta.org
- Jan Sieben and Penny Schmit, *Newsletter Editors*

PTA Presidents' Message, continued

landed here years ago (yeah, the house-buying experience prior to having children—I mean, good thing we cared about the school district for resale value—but I digress . . .).

So, here we are, in the last few weeks of winter, just WAITING for a break in the cold and snow. Get the kids some rest for ISAT testing in a couple of weeks. Get ready for the last musical for 1st and 2nd-graders. Get out for the last of the Rec Nights. Get yourself to the Roller Skating Party in a few weeks (March 19th). Most importantly, get involved! I know that's so cliché these days, but there really isn't any other way to say it (okay there probably is, but I can't think of one right now!). It doesn't mean you have to chair a committee or attend meetings all month long—just share your opinions, give your feedback, offer your expertise, and MAYBE get on a committee (a little one?).

While you're pondering all that, enjoy the rest of winter. Ya can't make it go any faster, so ya might as well do what you can to get into it. Before you know it, we'll be in the midst of spring! Now, THAT's a happy thought!

Margo Ban, PTA President
margo_ban@yahoo.com

LUNCH TIME CHANGE 3/2—3/13

ATTN: 3rd and 4th grade parents:

Due to ISAT testing, there will be a slight change in the lunch hour beginning Monday, March 2nd and going through Friday, March 13th. Third and fourth grade students will continue to eat lunch from 12:00-12:30, however, their recess time will be changed. Students will have recess from 12:30-1:00. Please note this is for the ISAT testing window only. We will return to our normal schedule on Monday, March 16th.



Join us on Wednesday, March 10 at Wendy's (Northwest Highway, near Photo's) for one of the last two Get SMART at Pleasant Hill Nights. We are so close to the final SMARTBoard. The final Get SMART night will be at Culver's (Algonquin and Meacham) on April 14.



1st and 2nd Grade Musical

What do stones have to do with a soup recipe?

Come and find out at the 1st and 2nd grade musical 'Stone Soup' on Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 in the Pleasant Hill cafeteria. 1st and 2nd grade students are to be dropped off at 6:45 and go to their individual classrooms to line up. Please have them bring or wear their costumes to school that day because we will be performing it for the older students during the school day. An order form for the DVD was sent home last week so if you are interested, please fill out the form with \$15 and return it to Ms. McD. by Wednesday March 11th. The students are so excited to showcase all of their hard work so please come out and support them. Hope to see you there!



Illinois PTA Convention

107th Annual PTA Convention—March 13th to 15th Holiday Inn Select, Naperville All current PTA members will be allowed into the exhibit hall FREE upon presentation of a PTA membership card. The hall is open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday, March 13th. Contact Manjula Sriram at (her email) for your membership card.

Check out this website for more information on what the convention is about:

<http://www.illinoispta.org/user/bulletin%2009final.pdf>

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PTA**

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Make A Difference Club Update

The Make a Difference Club volunteers have been busy spreading Valentine's Day greetings to many. They had the opportunity to paint unique Valentine's Day cards for residents at the Plum Grove of Palatine Nursing Home. The cards as well as sugar-free chocolates were delivered to the Nursing Home by several club volunteers on Valentine's Day. The student volunteers did not stop there to spread friendship cheer. At our most recent meeting a discussion was held to encourage them to reach outside their comfort zone and build "friendship bridges" with other Pleasant Hill students.

The students then created Valentine's Day cards and wrote notes to their identified special student indicating something special about that other student. The cards were delivered to those students with a special "sweet treat" by their classroom teacher on Valentine's Day.



On a side note - thank you for continuing to support the Ronald McDonald House by donating your pop tabs.

Judy Benka

Family Fitness Fair

Pleasant Hill hosted a Family Fitness Fair on Thursday, February 5th which was a huge success. Over 100 families attended with over 150 Pleasant Hill students participating in exercises, walking, sit ups, Tae Kwon Do, and the tasting of new foods and fruits.

Northwest Community Hospital, Community Consolidated School District 15, and the Northwest Suburban Council PTA's sponsored the event designed for the entire family. The intent was to promote fun physical activity, eating right, and ways to live a healthy lifestyle. There were 16 interactive stations designed to educate your family on making healthier choices.

Each family turned in a passport after completing the 10 stations. Special prizes were awarded to many students when their passports were drawn in the raffle. Mr. Burbaris' classroom will be awarded a free lunch provided by Whole Foods because their classroom had the most students participate in the event. The other raffle winners are listed below:

Lunch with the Principal provided by Whole Foods - Sarah, Emma and Catherine Aftelak

iPod shuffle- Joe Fahey

Orbit Pass for 5- Maya Poyraz

Laser Quest for 4- Julia Leonard

CoCo Key for 2- Christopher Sander

\$10 Dicks card w/backpack & water bottle - Nathan Hill

\$10 Dicks card w/backpack & water bottle - Ryan Haas

Fresh Choices bag with recipe book - Chris Schmit

Fresh Choices bag with recipe book - Quincy Carr

First Aid kit w/backpack- Sarina Castella

Thanks
Michelle & Lisa

A big thank you to all of the volunteers and coordinators that helped at the health stations, coat check and check in/check out table. We couldn't have done it without your support.



Thank you
Colleen, Donna & Jennifer
for a Fantastic 2009
Cougar Carnival !

Cougar Carnival 2009

The Cougar Carnival Committee would like to thank everyone for a great night! There was a lot of games, food and fun for everyone. A big congratulations to the winners of the Cake Decorating Contest: 1st Sheehan Family (popcorn box), 2nd Larsen Family (spaghetti & meatballs) and 3rd Novak Family (circus castle). Thank you to everyone who helped make this new addition fun. Finally, we would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time for the event. You all make it possible!

Nicky Aftelak
Steve Amy
Helen Baker
Jackie Ball
Chris Barto
Kim Bazil
Sam Bellino
Sue Bellino
Karrie Benjamin
Judy Benka
Kristen Berryhill
Niko Bubaris
Betty Buccieri
Brenda Burman
MaryBeth Caldwell
Sheila Cassato
Sonya Castella
Sue Curry
Jim Dano
Kelly Dean
Chris DePau
Pam DuSold
Chris Farrahar
Karen Ferguson
Anna Fiore
Lisa Fleming
Becky Flechter
Lolita Flynn
Mike Fox
Susie Fox
Yumi Fuki
Trina Garcia
Kelly Garro
Michelle Gattuso
Barbara Gierek
Lisa Ha
Carol Hansen
Ed Hansen

Georgianne Harms
Lezlie Hill
Greg Hirsch
Mayumi Horii
Sandy Jacobson
Joyce Johansen
Diane Johnson
Yuki Juretic
Padma Karthikeyan
Jane Kay
Sue Keegan
Tricia Kehm
Sherry Keller
Liz Kistner
Sue Klarner
Maria Knuth
Rowena Kuo
Sherri Lamerand
Melissa Larsen
Kristy Larson
Lora Lewis
Claudette Ligon
Ken Ligon
Yukari Lofton
Kathy Marx
Melissa Mavromatis
Alice McArdle
Patrick McCoy
Keeley McDonough
Laurie McGuriam
Dale Metzger
Michelle Muldowney
Angie Novak
Bob Novak
Cathy Peterson
Rita Poklacki
Rosemarie Porto

Mike Posdal
Cem Poyraz
Marcia Poyraz
Stuart Purdy
Eric Qiu
Maureen Quiery
Sally Rock
Lisa Sammons
Susan Savage
Megan Schlobohm
Cindy Schmoeller
Ed Schmoeller
Karen Schutz
Pat Shears
Doug Sheehan
Tricia Sheehan
Jan Sieben
Risa Silver
Kim Skarstein
Jon Stedronsky
Kelly Stevens
Jim Stoesser
Marie Syzdek
Ashley Teipel
Sherry Thomas
BJ Thompson
Marcia Thompson
Fabio van Roon
Paula van Roon
Christy Victor
Allison Voehringer
Sandy Von Holt
Arlene Wada
Allison Willis
Joanne Wojcik
Dawn Wurtz
And Cub Scout Pack 209

Cougar Carnival Committee

Jennifer Chamberlin, Donna Hirsch and Colleen Novak

Environmental Education

There are literally months of the year that I can predict I will be stressed out. In May, I'm stressed with the looming end of the school year and the race to plan the kids' summer activities (and therefore my driving service schedule). September is stressful because I'm overwhelmed with a new school year and a whole new set of carpools and activity schedules (I have no short-term memory, which hampers this ability big-time). December is stressful with holiday preparations—'nuf said! February usually isn't a month I predict will be stressful, but yet this one has been. Anticipating these stressful times, I



usually plan to get outdoors more. There's just something about fresh air that revives the spirit (could I be an outdoor marketer, or what?!) and calms the nerves. Nature simply reminds me that life is and should be about the basics, and if I miss a planned activity

or skate past a deadline, life will go on!

Amazingly, not all folks know this little secret! And lots of us, even if we do know it, have a hard time putting the effort into getting ourselves off the couch, out of the warm house, and out the door, much less getting our families out there with us. Interestingly, the federal government recognized this last year and addressed it with the No Child Left Inside Act, not to be confused with the No Child Left Behind Act that has had mixed reviews. The No Child Left Inside Act sought to authorize \$100 million per year for 5 years to fund hands-on outdoor education for children ages K-6. It has passed in the House of Representatives as of September but has not yet been voted on in the Senate.

In the spirit of this bill, the Chicago Park District manager of outdoor and environmental education, Peggy Stewart, presented the Children's Outdoor

Bill of Rights at the Chicago Wilderness Congress held this past November. This Bill of Rights lists the top ten things kids should do to be happy and healthy. Okay, I had to check this out! The full list is at www.kidsoutside.info/billofrights. Play in the mud, climb a tree, and camp under the stars are on the list. The site also points to research claiming that unstructured playtime is what kids need more of. Can you say "On board with that!?" I can! I am all over unstructured!



So there ya have it. I just found my summer activities, and they meet a few major criteria in my life—cheap/free, minimal commitment, and environmentally friendly. I love that these to-do's will just help our children connect with the world around them—literally in their backyards (yep, no driving!). The stronger that connection, the more in tune with nature they will be as adults. And, back to my original point, the better able they will be to use the natural resources they have around them to reduce the stress in their lives and live happier, healthier lives.

FYI—I found this information in Chicago Wilderness Magazine—check it out at www.chicagowildernessmag.org. It has great information about local nature spots—how to get there, what to do, etc.

For now, just get out there and play!! Snow or no, let's show our kids how to connect with nature and get our connections back at the same time. See you on the trails, on the hills, or wherever your play takes you!

Margo Ban Environmental Educator

BOXTOPS: Deadline Approaching!!

This is your first chance to submit Boxtops for the March 2009 Class Contest!!! One prize will be awarded to the classroom that has the most Boxtops in First and Second Grade, One prize for Third and Fourth grade and One Prize for Fifth and Sixth Grade. Kindergarteners will still receive individual prizes so **FILL OUT THE FORMS!! Boxtops without the form below WILL NOT COUNT!** There will be extra forms in the Boxtops Bin by the front office if you need them. Please list one student per sheet, but you may put more than one sheet in a bag of Boxtops. Example: You have 50 Boxtops to turn in. You have two students in your family. Fill out one sheet for each and enclose both in your bag. "Susie Student – 50 Boxtops – Mr. Eatsalots class" and "Stan Student – 50 Boxtops – Ms. Snaxalots class" They will each receive full credit if you fill out the form. Again, please trim your Boxtops and turn in at least 20 at a time. **Deadline for this contest is April 1st! Keep trimming!** Thanks! Pat Murakami patriciamurakami@yahoo.com



Student Name _____

Teachers Name _____

Number of Boxtops _____

Turn in these Boxtops by March 6th.

Looking Ahead at 09-10 PTA

As we look to the future, the PTA will be needing to fill some open positions in the coming school year. The nominating committee is now working to fill the open officer positions of Co-President, VP-Ways & Means, Co-VP Membership, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact any current PTA officer for information or to answer your questions, and they will get your name to the nominating committee members. If you aren't ready for an officer position, there are several committee chairperson positions that are open for next year. This is a preliminary list, and we will update it in subsequent newsletters. Again, please contact the current committee chair with any questions about the position.

Box Tops Committee--collects and submits Boxtops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels for funds for the school

Make a Difference Club--this would be a co-position next year with Judy Benka; position sponsors a student club with meetings once a month during the lunch hour

School Pictures--works with Yearbook chairperson to secure company to handle school pictures; works with company to organize and schedule school picture day and retakes

A Legislative Look...

The Board of Education candidates for the April 7th election have been finalized. There are four open seats with eight candidates running for a four-year term. They are listed below in the order as they will appear on the ballot with an asterisk identifying the incumbents.

Nancy Lee Carlson*
Margaret "Peggy" Babcock
Vicki Wilson
Richard Bokor
Steven Miller
Mark J. Bloom
Matthew Taylor
Timothy Millar*



The Northwest Suburban Council of PTA/PTSA is hosting a **Board of Education Candidates Forum at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 18,** in the gymnasium at Walter R. Sundling Junior High, 1100 North Smith Street, Palatine. This PTA forum and discussion will be centered on current educational issues in District 15. All eight candidates were invited to attend. For additional information on the candidates, the *Spotlight on the Board* has a link (www.fcwpta.org/election.htm) to their campaign websites or contact information along with any relevant newspaper articles.

The League of Women Voters is hosting a **Candidates' Night to be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 19,** at Palatine High School's Altergott Auditorium, 1111 North Rohlwing Road., Palatine. **Candidates for the contested races of Mayor, Councilman Dist #1, Park District Board, Library Board, and School District Board #15 have been invited to participate.** All candidates in the contested races will be allowed an introductory statement. The mayoral candidates will also have an opportunity to address questions from the press, the League and audience members.

Lastly, all this information is a moot point if you are not a registered voter. The final day to register to vote for the **April 7, 2009 Consolidated Election is Tuesday, March 10, 2009.** Individuals may register at Palatine's Village Hall, 200 E. Wood St. Two forms of identification are required, showing the applicant's name and current address (i.e. driver's license, checkbook, piece of mail, utility bill, etc.).

I hope you will be an informed voter and attend one or both of these forums. It is vital to our children and community. **Remember to vote on April 7!**

Helpful links....

www.phpta.org

www.illinoispta.org

www.fcwpta.org/election.htm

www.voterinfonet.com

www.ccsd15.net

www.lwvpalatinearea.org





SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD—December 10th Mtg.

Spotlight on the Board is a synopsis of notes and recordings taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Frank C. Whiteley PTA's school board liaison, [Jennifer Mondy](#). 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. These notes are not endorsed by District 15 or the Board of Education.

ED-RED Council/Legislation

The downturn in the economy has affected the IMRF which is the retirement fund that District 15 pays into for employees that do not participate in the Teacher Retirement System. The IMRF had a negative 26% return last year which will require the district to increase its contribution rate from the current 9% to approximately 17% in 2010. The additional cost has been added to the Five-Year Financial Projections that will be reviewed at the February 25th Board meeting.

Committee of the Whole meeting – February 25th

Per a Board member's request, the agenda will include a discussion on class sizes. The administration will provide information on how much it would cost to lower average class sizes by one or two students in each of the grade level groups, including junior high.

Board Members' Requests for Information

A member's objection to a delay in receiving the Five-Year Financial Projections led to a larger issue of Board members not receiving available information concerning the district's finances and other topics that have been previously requested.

Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA)

Ten requests were received requesting information pertaining to district policies, the Board of Education candidates (6 requests), a candidate's Statement of Economic Interest, transcripts of Board member emails during a specific period of time and various items related to an investigation into the District 15 Concerned Parents organization.

Board of Education Election – April 7th

Eight candidates will be on the ballot for the four open seats. They are Nancy Lee Carlson, Margaret "Peggy" Babcock, Vicki Wilson, Richard L. Bokor, Steven Miller, Mark J. Bloom, Matthew Taylor and Timothy Millar. Their campaign Web sites or contact information including relevant newspaper articles can be found at www.fcwpta.org/election.htm

Board Member Attendance Rate since May 2007 (Total of 47 Regular and Special meetings) Carlson 62% (18 absences), Chapman 94% (3), Ekeberg 98% (1), Keenan 85% (7), Millar 100%, Quinn 98% (1) and Rowden 87% (6)

A Committee of the Whole meeting will be held **Wednesday, February 25th, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine. DVDs of the meetings are available for checkout from the district office. To request a copy, contact June Becker, Board of Education Secretary at beckerj@ccsd15.net or 847-963-3208.

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