



Pleasant Views

A PTA Publication

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Pleasant Hill School

434 West Illinois Avenue

Palatine, IL 60067



April

18 Moms & Munchies A-L

22 Waste Free Lunch

25 Moms & Munchies M-Z

30 PH Open House & Ice
Cream Social

May

1 No School

2 No School

14 Board of Education Mtg.

20 PTA Changeover Meeting

30 Field Day

June

6 Last Day of School

Principal's Message

Dear Pleasant Hill Families & Staff:

Thank you for your participation and generosity of time as well as donations. We are so fortunate our community supports excellence in education in so many ways. Even with our ever changing weather we manage to find the silver lining to enjoy our events with students, parents and staff.

Our students 2nd through 6th will be involved in MAP testing through April 18th with make-ups the following week. They will be taking reading, math and language arts during the Spring Testing Period. These tests give us valuable feedback for planning instruction for next year.

April 11th has arrived and our families will enjoy an atmosphere of international flavor at our First Multicultural Festival. We are all looking forward to a wonderful, global experience with food, games, the Parade of Nations, and a Multicultural Performance.

We are also looking forward to the upcoming Moms and Munchies on April 18th (A-L) and on April 25th (M-Z). Fine Breakfast dining in the company of our children, moms and teachers. Please join us for this early wake-up visit. It is always a great opportunity for connecting with your friends and neighbors as well.

One spring topic that always pops up is the introduction of our favorite furry family members – OUR PETS – we love them and can't wait to reunite them with their buddy who has been at school all day. Unfortunately, some of our students are allergic and very much afraid of animals – dogs or cats. Therefore, our pets are not allowed on school property at arrival, during school or after school. Thank you for understanding

Continued on next page...



Marianne Kipp, *Interim Principal* ● Kristy Seifert, *Assistant Principal*

● Mary Hanson and Karen Schutz, *PTA Presidents*

● Jan Sieben and Penny Schmit, *Newsletter Editors* ● PTA Website: www.phpta.org

Principal's Message, continued

the safety needs of all our students.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR WORDMASTERS:

Competing in the very difficult Gold Division of the WordMasters Challenge our third and fourth graders from Mrs. Schlobohm's room tied for ninth place in the nation. Over 200,000 students participate annually. Enjoy your weekend, hopefully, full of sunshine – otherwise the rain is good for the grass. I know I have only been here since January, but the time has passed very quickly and I continue to enjoy working with your children, our staff and all of you. This is the type of neighborhood school personnel dream about. I continue to be impressed with the enthusiasm our families share for education and the supporting events.

Mrs. Kipp

Reading is always an adventure and our students enjoy books every day. Our congratulations to those students who earned 100 AR points since the beginning of our school year through March of 2008.

Congratulations

It's time for Mom's and Munchies!



Mom's or Guardians ... Please join us for coffee, juice, and munchies in the Pleasant Hill Cafe'

Friday, April 18th, 2008

For last names beginning with A-L
8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

OR



Friday, April 25th, 2008

For last names beginning with M-Z
8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

Greetings from the Make A Difference Club

This past Monday the students had an opportunity to spread the gift of friendship by writing a letter and creating a friendship to a student attending a Nigerian School. I anticipate the students receiving letters back from their new pen pal by the end of the school year. They had a great time sharing their own growing up experiences here in America.

This week the club jump started the "Cleats Drive" with the help of Earth Club. The Clubs will be collecting good condition cleats that from April 7 until Monday, April 21st. St. Theresa school will also be joining us in our cleat drive. The donated cleat will be given to the Palatine Opportunity Center who will distribute them at their summer sports program for needy Palatine children.

Thank you for all of your support of the children's efforts.

Judy Benka

Just Girls

Calling all 5th and 6th grade girls... you and your mother (or a close female adult) are invited to attend a Pleasant Hill PTA sponsored social event on Thursday evening, May 15, from 6:30-8:30 in the cafeteria. This event is to discover fun new ways to talk with each other and your classmates while exploring the world of adolescents. We will share a variety of learning experiences designed to help strengthen your confidence in yourself as you go through many changes, both physically and emotionally. Pat Garrity, L.C.S.W, will be our guest speaker and she will help combine the facts with humor to make the transition easier. There will be snacks and surprise goodie bags and the event is free of charge. It is guaranteed to be a lot of fun! Best of all, it's *just for girls*. Look for an invitation in your folder home this week. For more information, contact PTA Heath and Safety Chair, Michelle Gattuso, at michelle.gattuso@gmail.com.

Environmental Education

Happy Earth Day Month!!

Earth Day 2008 is on Tuesday, April 22nd, which is also the day on which we will hold April's Waste-Free Lunch. Please try to pack your child a waste-free lunch on that day—one with reusable containers, a cloth napkin (although paper will be fine as it is VERY biodegradable), and no items that need to be thrown away. A child with a waste-free lunch receives a ticket that he deposits in a canister in the library.

Later in the week, I randomly choose 6-9 students to receive an earth-friendly prize.



So, what are you going to do to celebrate Earth Day 2008? I have some ideas for you (shocker, I know!) in case you are in a quandary as to what to do . . .

Buy and USE reusable grocery bags at Jewel, Dominick's, Trader Joe's, Target, and everywhere you shop. Or simply refuse a bag if you're only purchasing a few items.



Buy organic food—better for you, better for the environment because no chemicals are used to grow them (remember that if cost is an issue, buy selectively and choose non-organics for those items singled out by *Consumer Reports* as being low in residual pesticides: asparagus, avocado, bananas, broccoli, cauliflower, corn, kiwi fruit, mango, onion, papaya, pineapples, and peas). Check out www.freshpicks.com for home delivery of local and organic produce, meat, dairy, eggs, baked goods, and more.

Play outside—sounds simple, and it is. It's also the easiest way to help your children develop a sense of appreciation and responsibility for our world. It might also remind you of yours!

Make your own household cleaners—for an all-purpose cleaner, mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup borax and 1 gallon hot water in a pail (or use smaller amounts in a spray bottle— $\frac{1}{8}$ cup borax to 1 quart water) and use with a rag or mop. Use within 3 days. For more cleaning recipes, visit www.thegreenguide.com.

Walk or ride your bike instead of driving everywhere. Walking or riding your bike instead of driving for a one-mile trip three or more times per week would save about \$144 and use about 12 fewer gallons of gasoline (taken from *Chicago Parent*, April 2008).



Use this month to get recharged in your "green" efforts! Check out the calendar put out by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) for some ideas of ways to be more environmentally aware (<http://www.swancc.org/pdfs/Waste%20Ed/aprilCalendar08.pdf>). It has daily tidbits for the month as well as dates of upcoming SWANCC events. I give you permission to print it out and work with your kids to see what activities you can do in your family this month!

Don't forget to keep bringing in your old athletic shoes this month as well as your retired cell phones. Also, Earth Club is continuing to collect boxtops from Puffins brand cereals and snacks in order to adopt a puffin for a year through the Audubon Society. If you enjoy that brand of cereal or snacks, please save and bring in the boxtops for us!



Most importantly, however, celebrate the earth this month in any way you can, and enjoy spring!

Margo Ban

—Environmental Education



Pleasant Hill Open House And Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

7:00-8:00 Open House/ Visit Classrooms

7:30-8:30 Ice Cream Served In The Cafe

If you can help please contact Katie Hermetet 847 934-1333 or Melissa Mavromatis 847 934-6167

5/6 Gifted Program Added to Pleasant Hill

We are very pleased to be one of our district home schools for the Gifted Program 3rd through 6th grade. The 3rd/4th Gifted Program will continue in their current room with Mrs. Schlobohm. Our new 5th / 6th Gifted Program will be located in our current reading room across from our offices.

We are proud to announce Risa Silver as our 5th / 6th grade teacher for our Gifted Program. Mrs. Silver earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication and Fine Arts at Bradley University. After working for twenty years in advertising and marketing, she decided to pursue her longtime aspiration of becoming a teacher.

She then earned her Master of Arts in teaching at National Louis University. And continued her professional growth by acquiring verification for teaching gifted programs also through National Louis. She student taught in a 7th /8th grade gifted Social Studies program at Hawthorne Middle School North.

Risa is currently teaching 6th grade at Pleasant Hill. Instructional creativity and the ability to use resources and materials to meet the needs of students at multiple levels of performance are some of the professional qualities that Risa shares everyday with our students and will challenge our students in the 5th/6th Gifted Program.

Bowling Anyone ?

The Pleasant Hill Breakfast Club ladies bowling league is looking for anyone interested in some fun and to meet new people next fall. The Breakfast club meets the first Tuesday of every month at Brunswick in Palatine. Your done in time for Kindergarten pickup if needed. (Scores of 50 and higher accepted !)

If interested or have questions, contact Pam Dubinski pam@dubin.org

WANTED

ROOM PARENTS FOR 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

Calling all room parents for next year. If you are interested in being a room parent for your child next year please e-mail Monica Leonard at monicaleonard@comcast.net. We are starting to plan for the next school year and it is a great way to be involved in your child's classroom. Thanks

PTA COAT CLOSET

Spring is in the air and it is finally getting warm! Wouldn't it be a great time to clean out those closets? If you have any winter coats, snow pants, gloves, or boots that just don't fit your child (ren) anymore, please consider donating them (cleaned and gently used) to the PTA Coat Closet.

Every year, with the help of school nurses and social workers, the PTA Coat Closet has helped us assure that no child will be cold during the winter. Any school may donate to the closet and any school may use the closet. With the long winter hopefully behind us, the Closet needs to be restocked so that it will be ready to meet the needs of our children for next winter. We are especially in need of boy's coats sizes 8 and larger but we will take anything.

The Pleasant Hill PTA Coat Closet Drive will run during the week of May 5-9th. The collection box will be located by the front office. If you have any questions, please email Michelle Gattuso at michelle.gattuso@gmail.com.



Open PTA Positions for the 2008-09 School Year

The following are positions that have not been filled yet for next year. If you have any questions regarding what these committees involve or any other questions, please contact Karen Schutz (KS66@msn.com) or Mary Hanson (greenii@comcast.net)

Art Awareness

Bilingual Liaison

Birthday Book Club

BoxTops (assistance needed)

Care and Concern

MANNA

Parent Education

Plum Grove Liaison

Ice Cream Social

Publicity

Rec. Nights

Scholarship

School Kits

SPARK

Volunteer Coordinator

School Board Liaison

Now announcing the first annual CCSD15 musical instrument drive!

Spring has finally arrived and as you are doing your spring-cleaning we have a great opportunity for you to get rid of those instruments collecting dust!

We are now accepting donations of band and orchestra instruments in working or fixable condition. The following instruments will be accepted:

Flutes	French Horns
Oboes	Trombones
Clarinets	Baritones/Euphoniums
Bass Clarinets	Tubas
Alto Saxophones	Percussion equipment
Tenor Saxophones	Violins
Baritone Saxophones	Violas
Bassoons	Cellos
Trumpets	Basses

If you have an instrument not on this list please contact your school band, orchestra or music teacher to see if it can be used.

Upon evaluation of instrument value, you will receive a letter from the district to be used as a tax deduction.

Your school's band or orchestra teacher will accept instrument donations. Donations will be accepted until Monday June 2.

Spotlight on the Board—March 12th School Board Meeting

Spotlight on the Board is a collection of notes taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Frank C. Whiteley PTA's newsletter editor, 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 nor the Board of Education. Full Spotlight on the Board notes available at www.phpta.org/DistrictInfo.htm. Highlights of the — April 9th meeting—will be in our next issue of Pleasant Views.

2008-2009 Transportation Plan Approval - 2-Tier Modified

A two-tier modified plan was developed after the administration concluded the revised three-tier plan that was presented in February would not provide enough buses for the afternoon routes. The new proposal addresses the parochial schools' concerns over early start times, high school traffic at various schools, Winston Campus safety and sufficient time for Conyers Learning Academy pickups. After hearing from the public and focus groups, there seemed to be more support for the two-tier vs. the three-tier plan. The Board debated an amendment to the modified plan that would move Marion Jordan's start/end times by 10 minutes and whether it would resolve parents' safety concerns at the school. The amended two-tier modified plan was approved 6:1.

10-Year Vehicle Replacement Plan

The vote to establish a bus replacement plan was tabled

until November when a determination can be made as to how the two-tier modified system is going to work for the district.

2008-2009 Student Fees: Book, Material, Technology and Lunch Fees

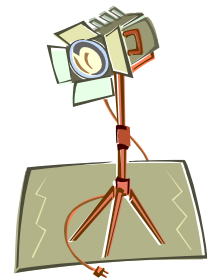
Pay Rider Transportation Fee

Board members were provided with background information as to the reasoning behind the increases. The fees were approved 5:2. Objections ranged from the pay rider increase being too high to the need to raise both the pay rider and lunch fees to the district's actual costs.

The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting is **Wednesday,**

April 9th, 2008

7 p.m. at Sundling Junior High in Palatine.



To read Full Spotlight on the Board Notes or subscribe via email to Spotlight on the Board, go to: www.fcwpta.org/board_notes.htm