

Pleasant Views

A PTA Publication

Volume 43, Issue 2

Pleasant Hill School

434 West Illinois Avenue

Palatine, IL 60067

Important Dates to Remember

September

15 PTA Meeting 7p.m. Teacher's Lounge

18 Fun Run

25 Waste Free Lunch

25 Dads & Donuts A-L 8:15—8:45 a.m.

October

2 Dads & Donuts M-Z 8:15-8:45 a.m.

6 PTA Meeting 7 p.m.

9 No Student Attendance

12 No School—Columbus Day

23 Fall Fest 5:30—8:00 p.m.



Principal's Message

For the better part of the last fifteen years, I've considered myself a pretty intelligent person. I attended the University of Illinois, made the Dean's list more times than I didn't, graduated with honors, got a job in a renowned school district, earned tenure, earned a master's degree, was named an assistant principal, was promoted to a principal position, and finished what I considered to be a pretty successful first-year in a very successful school in very successful district. I mean, to pull off that list of accomplishments, I had to be pretty smart, right? I can also speak intelligently about politics, history, and literature. I can use technology. I can tell you why the sky is blue. I can explain how geothermal energy can save the world. I'm smart! Yet for all my supposed intelligence, it took a single event to completely change my entire perception of my intelligence level (and no, it wasn't the decision to have the kids sit by class at lunch, despite continued arguments by some parents that it's the dumbest thing they've ever heard of! ☺) For me the humbling event was getting engaged. Being engaged has made one thing perfectly clear – I'm pretty dumb when it comes to a whole lot of topics. Engagement photos, color schemes, floral arrangements, and wedding dress fabrics and cuts? Dumb, dumber, and in some cases, I'm like that first chimp that they fired into space in the early days of NASA – I have no idea what's going on, I'm just along for the ride, and before long, things are going to end badly for me. It's amazing that my fiancé hasn't left me yet for a smarter guy; maybe she's dumb too, but chances are it's because she feels sorry for me and my shattered intellectual ego.

I'd love to tell you that being intelligent in areas of floral arrangement and wedding dress fabrics are trivial areas of knowledge not worth my time. However, as I've spent the better part of the last six months depleting my savings account to access these people's knowledge, there is obviously some real, measureable value to what these people know and do.

All of this leads me back to the point of this article. Last spring, I wrote an article for *Pleasant Views* urging parents to nurture creativity, to rethink what they value in their children's education, and most importantly, to celebrate success and accomplishment of any kind, even

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

the little victories that don't have a grade attached to them. My experiences this summer preparing for my wedding have only strengthened my belief in that message. And as we begin a new school year, I wanted to touch on it one last time. For many of you, the start of the school year brings anxiety about your child's AR level, math placement, and MAP scores. Those things are important and worth your concern. The academic skill sets that correspond to high scores and accelerated placements will open doors and provide opportunities for your children. But it is important to understand that those scores and grades are simply reflective of academic knowledge and skills. Your kids are so much more than that. In a mere ten days of school, I've seen your children to be the kind citizens who volunteer to walk injured first graders down to the office, even though it means sacrificing some of their own recess. Your kids are the emerging artists who draw pictures for my office walls. Your kids are the respectful, responsible members of a student body who have to suffer through my endless discussions about...you guessed it...respect and responsibility. They don't get grades for these skills, and there probably won't be an ISAT question covering them, but aren't those skills just as important as reading, writing, and mathematics?

When you sit at the dinner table at night, discussing with your kids about their day at school, celebrate the making of a new friend as much as the success on the math test. Praise their drawings as much as you praise their reading. And for goodness sake, don't crush creativity to make room for academics. Strive to create a balance between the two because, all knowledge, all skills are valuable. Plus, if they're creative enough, with a solid academic foundation, maybe someday they'll have some really intelligent person like me pay them five figures to develop a color scheme for a six hour event!

A warm welcome to our new families and a sincere welcome back everyone else! It is going to be a fantastic year!

~Mr. Palcer



- ♦ **Fun Run Fundraiser is on September 18th during school**
- ♦ **Turn in your completed Pledge Envelopes as soon as possible. Last day to submit Pledge Envelopes is September 25th**
- ♦ **Don't forget to wear your grade colors on September 18th: red 6th grade, orange 5th grade, yellow 4th grade, green 3rd grade, blue 2nd grade, purple 1st grade and white kindergarten**
- ♦ **We can reach our goal if we all work together!**



Yearbook

Last call for yearbook volunteers!

The creation of the 2009-2010 PH Yearbook is about to begin. We need to choose a cover, plan the layout and assign pages and photographers. Please call or email Cathy Peterson if you would like to volunteer.

Birthday Book Club

The Birthday Book Club is back for one last chance. On the following page is a listing of books that are still available for purchase in honor of your child's birthday. The book will be donated to the Resource Center but will always have a label inside remembering your child's birthday. In appreciation of your donation a photo will be taken of your child and it will hang outside the Resource Center for everyone to admire. But wait - there's more, everyone who donates a book will receive \$7.00 in free food coupons to Photos.

If you're interested please email **Susan Savage** at savusus@comcast.net with your book selection, name, age and teacher. Please send your check made payable to Pleasant Hill PTA and mark the envelope Birthday Book Club.

Thanks in advance for making this program a huge success!

Susan Savage

Birthday Book Club Committee Chair

Art Awareness Orientation

For All Art Awareness Volunteers: Please join us for the Art Awareness Volunteer Orientation on Wednesday, September 16th from 3:30pm-4:00pm. We will be reviewing the Art Awareness Program and then giving a tour of where the art supplies are located in the PTA room. Just meet us in the front hallway at the Art Awareness table after school. Kids are welcome! If you cannot make this meeting, please email Colleen Novak at colnovak@sbcglobal.net or Chris Barto at chris.barto@sbcglobal.net and we will make sure you get the supplies you need to get started.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

Colleen Novak

Chris Barto



Birthday Book Club—Books Still Available

Title	Reading level	Price	Title	Reading level	Price
Born to Read	3.4	\$16.00	Cheetahs	1.5	\$17.00
Boo-Hoo Moo	2.3	\$18.00	The Chicken Sisters	3.3	\$13.00
Who's Been Here	1.2	\$16.00	Hippos	1.6	\$17.00
Let's Go Froggy	1.9	\$12.00	Pirate for Hire	2.7	\$16.00
Scaredy Squirrel	3.0	\$15.00	Auntie Tiger	3.6	\$16.00
Knitty Kitty	1.0	\$16.00	Chicken Said Cluck	1.6	\$19.00
Fancy Nancy Explore	3.1	\$13.00	Fancy Nancy See Stars	1.9	\$11.00
The Lion's Share	3.4	\$16.00	Artic Fox	4.6	\$20.00
Moo-Who?	1.7	\$19.00	Heart in the Pocket	2.7	\$15.00
Madeline	3.5	\$17.00	Peanut	1.8	\$15.00
Backbeard and the Birthday Suit	2.6	\$13.00	Arthur It's Only Rock n Roll	2.8	\$15.00
Priscilla	3.5	\$16.00	Ready, Set, Skip	0.8	\$13.00
Gulliver's Travels	3.2	\$19.00	The Frog with the Big Mouth	3.5	\$17.00
Queen of Halloween	2.2	\$16.00	Mighty Max	2.0	\$16.00
Butterflies	2.1	\$17.00	Beluga Whales	3.8	\$20.00
Bindi Irwin	3.4	\$19.00	The Cow was the Best Moo-ther	2.0	\$18.00
Warriors Cats of the Clans	6.8	\$15.00	The Zoey Zone	3.8	\$11.00
Earth to Matthew	4.1	\$12.00	Warriors Eclipse	4.3	\$16.00
Nancy Drew The Perfect Escape	4.9	\$12.00	Nancy Drew Perfect Cover	4.7	\$12.00
39 Clues The Sword Thief	4.4	\$13.00	The Book of Time	5.6	\$13.00
Paintball	3.8	\$20.00	Hank Cow Dog Missing Bird Dog	4.2	\$12.00
Rune Warriors	6.7	\$15.00	Highway Cats	4.8	\$14.00
Alfred Kropp 13 th Skull	4.6	\$18.00	Ghost of Spirit Bear	4.8	\$16.00
This Place has no Atmosphere	4.3	\$12.00	Mystery at Mt. Fuji	4.6	\$16.00
The Journal of Patrick Flaherty	5.9	\$11.00	Thoroughbred Cassidy's Secret	4.7	\$11.00
Children of the Lamp	5.6	\$13.00	Sword Quest	5.2	\$13.00
Ghost Letters	6.0	\$18.00	The Creepy Caper Mystery	4.0	\$16.00
Meet Ben Roethlisberger	4.5	\$17.00	Ben Roethlisberger	4.0	\$13.00
The Sherlock Files	4.4	\$16.00	Better Than Best	4.1	\$13.00
The Dragon in the Sock Drawer	4.1	\$14.00	Kittens in the Kitchen	3.8	\$11.00
Madison Finn Give and Take	4.0	\$11.00	Mostly Monty	4.3	\$12.00

Interested in Making A Difference in your Community?

Then we have the **Pleasant Hill Club** for you!

Who: Students in grades 2-6 interested in community service and would like to participate in activities that will **Make A Difference** in the lives of others.

What: Participate in a variety of community service activities (i.e. Treats for Troops, Book Worm Angels, Pleasant Hill Holiday Tree, and Special Olympic activities, just to name a few).

Where: Meeting place TBD.

When: Club will meet 1-2 times a month on Mondays from 11:30-12:30 pm.

Students will attend the meetings during their lunch recess.

Meetings will take place between October-April.



Club Coordinator: Judy Benka, judybenka@yahoo.com

Interested in joining the club? Please return the lower portion of this form to your teacher.

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____ Room # _____

By signing below I give my child permission to participate in the **Make A Difference Club's** in-school activities.

Parent Signature: _____

Parent e-mail: _____

Parent assistance/support is always helpful. Interested in assisting from taking pictures at club meetings to assisting at meetings. Please sign below if you would like to be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities:

Name: _____

Environmental Education

I've said it before, and I'll say it again (probably many times, but I'll vary my delivery so that you'll never know!)—when it comes to being environmentally friendly, we hear TONS about recycling but not as much about the other R's. Reducing and Reusing are even more important to our efforts to save our planet than is Recycling. Sure, it's getting easy for you now to toss your plastic bottles, jars, cans, and newspapers into your gigantic village recycling receptacle for it to be picked up at your curb each week. You guys are pros now! So I think you're ready for the next challenge—employing these “other” R's!

You may be asking yourself how you might go about doing this. As luck would have it, I have a few ideas! First, let's focus on reusing. Reusing is basically all about using items you have in your possession already either for their intended use (resisting the “need” to get a new one) or for something completely different. In *Real Simple* magazine, these completely different uses are called “a-ha uses” and include ideas like using your melon baller (doesn't *everyone* have one of those?!) to scoop out tomato seeds or using a small tension rod in a kitchen drawer to keep pot lids standing up and in place (a-ha indeed!).



How about when you have stuff that you just can't use anymore? In these economic times, it's difficult to get excited about just giving stuff away. So why not barter? Yes, you heard it.

This is something you may have learned about when assisting your son or daughter in studying for his/her social studies test. But it's not just something done in pioneer times! Bartering is back bigtime—as seen in the success of *Craigslist.org*, to name one swapping website. Your bartering days don't have to be relegated to the web only—try some bartering with friends and family. My sister holds a clothing and accessory swap with her girlfriends regularly where each brings clothes, purses, shoes, and anything else they're tired of in their own wardrobes and trades them for fun stuff of someone else's.

Okay, boys, feeling left out? You guys can do the same thing with sports equipment or yard “toys” or tools and other fix-it items. Want to stay under the radar with your swapping efforts? Try taking sporting goods to Play it Again Sports (there's one in Palatine over by Whole Foods) or for clothing and all other items, take items to Wings (also in Palatine on Northwest Highway) or donate them to charity groups that offer pick-up service. Don't forget about your very own school!

Sporting goods in good condition can be donated for recess duty, and the PTA Staff Appreciation Committee is looking for some serving pieces to keep at school in the Teachers' Lounge (contact Pat Murakami for details).



How about Reducing? Basically, this is all about changing our shopping habits. First, as we've discussed before, we need to be purchasing items with minimal packaging—that means bulk items that we repackage in reusable containers for our children's lunches. Yes, more work for us, but SO much better for Mother Earth! Reducing also means just plain reducing our purchasing in general. Let's face it—I have lots of stuff that's in perfectly good condition, but I just want something new. How do I keep myself from getting more stuff? Heck of a good question, and frankly, I'm still working on it. The important thing is that I am working on it. I'm trying to make sure I don't throw stuff out without giving it a chance to be reused, and I'm trying to breathe new life into stuff I've had forever and am just tired of. I'm also trying to keep myself too busy to get to the mall—whatever works, right?!

I hope you're trying something new in the environmental arena this year, too! I think you're ready, and I'm excited to help you with even more ideas in the coming months! Keep up the good work!

Margo Ban

Environmental Educator

BOXTOPS

Boxtops--A reminder for everyone to sign up for the Boxtops newsletter at www.btfe.com/passion to earn 5 bonus Boxtops for each new entry. While you are there, enter the contests to win bonus Boxtops.

Escrip—this is the last week to shop. Pleasant Hill PTA can earn 10% of qualifying purchases through September 15. Remember to send in your Dominicks receipts or enter them at <http://www.backtoschool.escrip.com>. Starting September 18, your receipts will have a code on them. This is the code you will enter so that we may receive the 10%.

Soup labels—Sign up at www.labelsforeducation.com. There is more to LFE than soup! Check out all the qualifying products and enter for a chance to win a "Busload of Gear" for our school. A reminder to everyone sending in soup labels: we need the UPC code from the container—Not the face of the label. Be sure not to throw away the UPC code!



First contest of the year! One prize will be awarded to the classroom that has the most Boxtops in First and Second Grade, One prize for Third/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. "Janie Student – 50 Boxtops – Mr. Eatsalot class" and "Jake Student – 50 Boxtops – Ms. Snaxalots class" They will each receive full credit if you fill out the form. Please trim your Boxtops and turn in at least 20 at a time. Deadline for this contest is October 2nd! Keep trimming! Thanks!

Student's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

Number of Boxtops _____

A Legislative Look....

School is now back in full force, but you probably didn't realize that the Illinois PTA continued to monitor legislation throughout the summer. Two resolutions have been adopted at the recent Illinois PTA Convention - Resolution on Social and Emotional Learning and Resolution on Tax Increment Financing Districts. To find out more, click the link to read these resolutions in their entirety <http://www.illinoispta.org/Legislation/2009%20Convention%20Resolutions%20.pdf>

As your legislative voice at Pleasant Hill, I've established a "Call to Action" Committee. As pending legislation moves through our state and federal legislature, we could be called upon to contact our representatives via email about expressing support or opposition to a proposed bill. Legislators tend to be more responsive when they hear from a group of parents speaking with a unified voice. Please send me a quick email – sherrilamerand@yahoo.com - to be added to the list. This is a great way to keep a pulse with our state government. Also, our Pleasant Hill PTA website (www.phpta.org) is a great source for additional information.

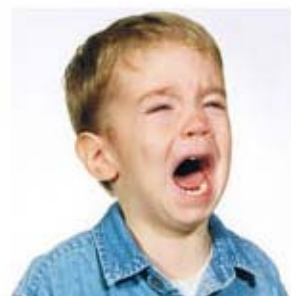
Sherri Lamerand, Vice President, Legislation



SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKE DAY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29th, 2009

Come to retake day IF:

- ** you did not order a portrait package on picture day (you forgot to bring in your envelope) and would like to now.
- ** you are new to Pleasant Hill (welcome!)
- ** you were absent on picture day
- ** you were not happy with your portrait package.



(You **must return** the whole package that you are unhappy with.)

**WE WILL VISIT EACH CLASSROOM TO PICK UP ANY STUDENTS
NEEDING THEIR PICTURE TAKEN/RETAKEN.**

Additional order forms available upon request - Just ask Mrs. Fletcher or Mrs. Lasiewicz at the front office or Betty Buccieri @ 847-202-0557

Family Key to Building Child's Self-Esteem

Be confident: Children model parents' behavior

Helping a child build self-esteem is a crucial and often difficult task for parents. One easy tip for parents to remember is that they are the models for their child's self-esteem, according to Suzy Yehl Marta, founder of Rainbows (<http://www.rainbows.org/>) in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. The effects of a parent lacking self-esteem trickle down to his or her children, she says. Read on for more ways Marta says can help parents strengthen their children's self-esteem.

Family serves as the foundation for self-esteem. Having a healthy, functioning family does more to build a child's self-esteem than anything, according to Marta, president of Rainbows, which helps kids heal emotionally after suffering a loss. It does not matter if the family is of the single-parent variety or the traditional nuclear family. "It just needs to be a healthy place for children to thrive in," she says.

Other tips from Marta:

Positive Talk – Don't put yourself down. Don't say negative things about your spouse, especially in a separation or divorce situation. That goes right to the heart of a child, "The message to the child is if dad is bad or not dependable then I must be too because I'm half mom and half dad," contends Marta.

Don't be a Parachute Parent – You can't always "parachute" in to solve your child's problems. Empower your child to take care of his or her own business when appropriate. Be available but also teach them how to handle challenges on their own.

Disappointment is OK – There is a whole generation of parents who don't ever want their children to feel bad. You see this in things like sports leagues where every kid gets a trophy. This treatment and over-protection makes for unrealistic expectations from life. "Our sole job is to prepare (children) for adulthood. And as adults, you don't always get a prize," she says.

Sincere Praise – Tell them when they do well and when they do poorly tell them so in a loving way. False praise leads to more unrealistic expectations.

Monitor Media – Negative messages on television, in movies, across the Internet and beyond erode a child's self-esteem. Monitor what they are viewing and talk with them about it.

Say No – The word "no" is a love word.. Children must learn they cannot have everything they want. This teaches them to be more discerning.

Express Love – Tell children daily that you love them. Parents would be surprised how often this does not happen...and how powerful it is when it does.

From Your National PTA/ www.PTA.org



"Save the Date" for
Plum Grove Jr.
High's Annual
Blood Drive on
Wed., Jan. 27, 2010

Don't Miss Dad's & Donuts

Last Name A—L

Friday Sept. 25th 8:15—8:45 a.m.

Last Names M-Z

Friday October 2nd 8:15-8:45 a.m.



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