



NIXON NEWS

Nixon PTA Newsletter—Vol. 2006-2007 Issue No. 10—February 15, 2007
The L.M. Nixon Elementary School, 1711 Stanford Ave., Stanford, CA 94305 (650) 856-1622
<http://www.nixon.pausd.org>

To Do List:

- Sign-up or renew your eScrip today!
- Have dinner at Round Table Pizza Tues. 3/6.
- Volunteer for the Nixon PTA.

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CALENDAR

- Fri. Feb. 16**
Staff Development Day
No School
- Mon.-Fri. Feb. 19-23**
February Break
No School
- Wed. Feb. 28**
Terman Orientation Mtg. ,
7:00 p.m. Terman Café
(For parents of incoming 6th graders.)
- Fri. Mar. 2**
PTA Executive Board and
General Meeting, 8:15 a.m.
- Mon. Mar. 5**
Site Council Meeting
2:40 p.m.
- Tues. Mar. 6**
Round Table Pizza Tuesday
California Avenue

A Letter From Your Child

Dear Mom and Dad,

There are only **two more weeks** to contribute to PiE, in ANY amount, (really even \$10.00 or \$20.00.) You see, when local businesses see a high percentage of parents contributing, it reinforces their commitment to contribute too. Just take a look at what Palo Alto realtors are doing! Unfortunately, Nixon is in second to last place among the elementary schools with percentage of participation. That makes me sad because **PiE gives a lot money to Nixon for staff who really make a difference in My education.** If you are still not sure who or what PiE is, let me explain:

Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE) is a non-profit 501(c)3 foundation dedicated to supporting Palo Alto public schools. Their mission is to partner with parents (**that's You**), Palo Alto Unified School District, and the local, extended community to raise funds for enhancing educational excellence for every student in the district. (**That's**

Me!) They are the only non-district source for funding staff at schools (**that's my art teacher and computer instructor and others.**) They want to ensure that every child (**me again**) at every PAUSD school (**my school**), in every year (**like right now**), has access to the classes, teaching, and tools that he or she needs to succeed. Whether for reading, art, science, or math for elementary school, or for electives, technology, libraries, or counseling for secondary school, Palo Alto Partners in Education provides much-needed resources for students throughout the Palo Alto school district. Check out their web site at: **www.papie.org**.

Mom, Dad, your generous support is what makes PiE work for **All of us kids**. Will you please donate now?

Sincerely,
your child



PiE is proud to let our readers know that our local Realtors kicked off their annual PiE Fundraising Campaign on February 2nd. This is an annual tradition and last year the Realtors donated over \$60,000 to PiE. We at PiE really appreciate the support from our Realtor community and we wish them the best of luck for a successful campaign. If you need more information, please contact Campaign Chair, Michael Hall of Alain Pinel.

Se puede encontrar una edición de *Nixon News* en español en la oficina general de la escuela. Favor de avisar a Gabriela Balas si usted desea añadir su nombre a la lista de distribución.

AAAG Communication Update

On Tuesday, February 6, the Palo Alto Unified School District Board met to discuss strategies for dealing with elementary school growth in the district. Below is a summary of the results of the school board meeting. These notes were put together by Melissa Caswell, PTA Council President, and sent to the PTA school presidents (these are her notes from a meeting with the Superintendent the following day, so they are not an official document). The board's decisions:

- 1) **Formally review the enrollment forecast on an annual basis**, to see if it is holding.
- 2) **Approved level one site expansion plan**. Ohlone would be the exception - it would be allowed to expand to 4 strands (40 additional students). Expansion at Fairmeadow **and Nixon** would be held off until additional information is presented at the April 24 meeting.
- 3) **Hold off on expansion decision for JLS and Jordan until April 24** when additional information will be presented on how the schools would handle the increase in students (50 students per school).
- 4) **Convene a High School Task Force** to explore options for handling high school enrollment growth (it is assumed that the recommendations would be presented in the late fall 2007.)
- 5) **Stay with 12 elementary schools for now**. Ask the Attendance Area Advisory Group (AAAG) to define new boundary areas for this scenario. The boundaries must provide for peer streaming and keeping the LAH students together. They should also recommend a trigger point for the opening of a 13 elementary school and the most appropriate of the three possible 13th school sites (Greendell, Garland & Fremont Hills).

According to Superintendent Callan, any changes resulting from these decisions would be effective in 2008-09. During the meeting, Board members gave some perspective to their views on boundary adjustments, such as making the fewest adjustments possible. The Board members also want the AAAG to consider impacts on diversity with regard to boundaries (e.g. create the most diversity feasible).

The specifics of the implications of these decisions for Nixon are unknown. For example, it appears that there are no changes yet planned for middle or high school boundaries, given that there will not be a 13th school in the near future. The directive about peer streaming may refer only to peer streaming from middle to high school, not from elementary to middle school.

So, stay tuned! Regardless of what happens, it will clearly benefit Nixon families to continue to stay informed. You can see the packet of information sent to the board as well as the presentation made by the demographers at the district web site at http://www.pausd.org/community/board/mtgs_materials/index.shtml.

Nixon Children + Their Teachers + Their Families + Math Games = Fun!

The Nixon Math Night was a great success. We had 225 teachers, students, alumnus, parents, and grandparents attend the event. There were 21 games for everyone, from kinders to grandparents, to participate in. We raised more than \$600.00 for Nixon Math programs. (A big thanks to Catherine Matterson and Harriot Roeder for donating and running the iPod raffle!)

Our success would not have been possible without the support of our terrific helpers. We would like to take this moment to thank every one of them. They are: Beryl Deremigio, Kevin Stevens, Sean Mcdaniel, Amanda Gantley, Barbara Welch, and Abi Okunaga.

(Student's names omitted for privacy reasons.)

Yuval Spector, Harriot Roeder, Susan Nicholls, Pam Rasmussen, Anne Villeneuve, Catherine Matterson, Marc Stoksik, Sandra Nadim, Gioia Allegretti, Leslie Fiedler, Jo Marcus, Parveen Rasheed, Bob Hu, and Sandra Viarengo.

And a very special thanks to the event coordinators, Barbara Sih Klausner and Barbara Zhang.

Save the Date – Friday May 18th

This year, the PTA will be holding a Silent Auction in conjunction with the International Night Festivities on the evening of Friday, May 18th, at the Nixon School Theater.

While enjoying the dinner buffet with friends at International Night, you will be able to browse through tables with silent auction items including vacation homes, event tickets, fine wines, gift certificates, and special experiences!

The Silent Auction committee is working diligently right now to solicit donations. If you are interested in contributing an auction item (and/or joining the committee), please email Jim Chang or Yvonne Karanas.

Please participate in this important fundraising event by donating an auction item or bidding at International Night! All donations are tax-deductible, and funds raised will directly support Nixon School PTA activities.

More details to come.

FIT FOR LEARNING

February is Healthy Hearts Month!

Discuss, as a family, the importance of a healthy heart; it is, after all, the most important muscle in our bodies! Heart disease affects many and this can be prevented through healthy nutrition and regular exercise. Fruits and veggies protect the heart. Are you getting your 5 a day? Eating lower fat food items is a good idea also, so all the veins and arteries carrying blood to and from the heart can stay clean inside. Whole grains and lots of fiber also keep our blood vessels clean. Do any of the breads or cereals in your kitchen have more than 5g fiber per serving? If yes, keep up the good work! If not, make your next purchase a high fiber one.

Also, it is useful for our children to hear about their own family members that have had heart problems. We do not want to frighten them, but empower them to make good choices and develop heart healthy habits at a young age.

In addition, the American Heart Association has a great website you can access with your student! Go to www.americanheart.org and then to the Children's Health section.

Ask your child about what is going on in P.E. each week too. We are fortunate to have a fantastic team of P.E. teachers in our district that are getting our kids to move, exercise, and raise those heart rates!

Coming in March...FUEL YOUR BODY...the importance of breakfast!

The Nixon PTA Wants YOU!

The Nixon PTA Nominating Committee is searching for Nixon parents whose goal is to provide the very best educational experience for their children. Does this describe you?

As busy as we all are, if we work TOGETHER, we can achieve that goal. There are opportunities to help within the PTA that will fit with everyone's many interests and time commitments. Volunteering in your child's classroom, library, and driving on field trips are critical to supporting the excellent teaching staff at Nixon and we are grateful for all those volunteers.

However, now may also be the time to consider participating at a level that benefits the entire Nixon community! The PTA offers numerous opportunities for you to make a difference and get to know other parents. While some members on the executive board are able to continue to serve, there are several unfilled positions. The Executive Board generally meets on the first Friday of the month at 8:15 AM for 2 hours. Positions for 2007-08 include:

- Vice President of Fundraising - oversees various fundraising programs
- Historian - maintains records
- Parliamentarian - advises the board on procedure & chairs the bylaw review
- PTA Council Representative (2) - serves as liaison between district and school PTA

For more information, please contact a member of the nominating committee or please give them your attention when they contact you.

Leisa Waschura
Jo Marcus
Catherine Matterson
Sandra Nadim
Christine Abraham
Gabriela Balas

Please take a moment to look at the chart, on the next page, that lists the Executive Board positions and various Committees Chairs. These committees are what make up many of the important fundraising, safety, and community building blocks of our school. Many are open or could use a co-chair. Find a friend and work together. You really will have fun and meet lots of new families in the process. Your involvement helps to keep Nixon the excellent school we all want it to be!

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The Nixon PTA Wants YOU! Continued from page 5

Executive Board

President
Executive Vice-President
VP-Student Programs
VP-Family Programs
VP-Fundraising
VP-Communications
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Secretary
Auditor
Parliamentarian
PTA Council Rep
PTA Council Rep

Executive Committees

Back To School Night
Back to School Registration
Back to School Packet
Curriculum Night
Technology
Nominating Committee

Communications

Nixon e-News Editor
Nixon Names Directory

Nixon News Distribution
Nixon News Editor
Nixon News Production
Parents Corner
Translation Coordinator
Website Coordinator

Fundraising

PiE Liaison
Book Fair
Gift Wrap
PTA Membership
School Supplies
Spirit Shop
Rebate – Escrip
Rebate - Box Top
Rebate - Nixon Night Out

Family Programs

Community Service Coord.
(wardrobe, toy drives)
Back To School Picnic
Family Math Game Night
Hospitality/Staff Appreciation
Ice Skating Party
International Celebration

May Fete Parade/Carnival
Maypole
New Families
School Safety Coordinator
(earthquake, emergency)
Traffic Control
Welcome Back Coffee

Student Programs

3rd Grade Bike Safety
5th Grade Activities
Assemblies
Classroom Volunteer Coord.
After School Enrichment
Health Care Coordinator
(TB Testing/lice/first aid)
Library Volunteer Coordinator
Noon Art
Noon Science
Pumpkin Festival

Treasurer

Tax Return Preparation

District Wardrobe Chair Needed

If you are interested in a position at the District level, a District Wardrobe Chair is needed.

The District PTA Council is looking for a volunteer chair for the “PTA Wardrobe.” The Wardrobe Chair coordinates school clothing drives, distributes wardrobe publicity for school newsletters, and manages the wardrobe site located at Jordan Middle School. This is a highly valued and important resource for EVERYONE in our community. If you think you might be interested, please contact Jan Rossi.

Meet the Staff.... Interview by Kyle Humble and Christian Meldrum

Name: Kim Bossi
Classroom: C4
Grade: Kindergarten
Years Teaching: 10
Years at Nixon: 1

First job: I worked at a Subway Sandwich shop in Southern California.

Known at Nixon for: Being a new kindergarten teacher and perhaps for my huge collection of books.

If you weren't teaching what would you be doing: I would own a Children's bookstore. Of course, I would be my own best customer.

Fondest memory: My mom went back to college when I was in grade school. I remember how terrific it was to watch her graduate. I was very proud of her.

Book on your nightstand: The # 1 Ladies Detective Agency, by Alexander McCall Smith. It is set in Africa and very interesting.

Most loved children's book: My favorite Children's author is Robert Munsch. I like how all his stories make children laugh. I like the *Paper Bag Princess*.

Favorite weekend retreat: I go up to Tahoe whenever I can to ski. My mom lives in Reno so I get to visit her too. I recently tried snow shoeing and enjoyed that.

Proudest moment: My first day of class with my very first class. They were 2nd graders in Pacific, CA.

Biggest challenge: To keep up with my chores! I have a long 'to do' list that never seems to get crossed off.

Favorite Food: Cookies! Every and all kinds of cookies!

Perfect day: I would get up late and have coffee in bed. Then head off to a mall with my friends for some serious shopping. I would buy lots of pairs of shoes. One can not own too many pairs of shoes. I would go to a spa for a relaxing massage (shopping is tiring). In the evening, I would have a dinner party at home and top it off with cookies for dessert.

Most interesting vacation: I went to Thailand with friends for 4 weeks in 2004. We have a friend, who lives there, so we got to see a lot of 'insider' places. I rode on an elephant.

Last purchase: I bought a pair of black boots with high heels. Definitely not classroom shoes.

Favorite movie: *Breakfast at Tiffany's*

Inspiration for becoming a teacher: My parents. They both instilled a love of learning in me. I love teaching kindergarten because it is a year where so much change and growth takes place.

Bonus Question. Your favorite candy: Butterfingers

Also: I like to watch football, especially the 49ers and I run for exercise and enjoy going to races like Bay to Breakers and Run to the Far Side.

Classroom Happenings

Life Skills

Nixon kids across all grade levels work on life skills as a part of their daily routine in the classroom. Teachers report that when a situation comes up, the kids rely on conflict resolution skills practiced at the beginning of the year. Many classrooms have written guidelines, posters and even signed contracts of behaviors that were determined and agreed upon by the kids themselves. School Life Skills assemblies teach and reinforce the behavior models. Mr. McDaniel's 5th grade class strives to be a "Talk-it-Out" kind of class. Ms Curtis's 3rd grade parents get Happy Calls and Letters when children show especially positive and collaborative behavior.

In all classrooms, children practice problem solving by communicating with "I messages" and by being active listeners. The goal is to be sure each person involved feels that they have been heard. Often the students come to solutions that resolve the conflict with them feeling like they are better friends due to the experience. Hopefully our children practice these skills with their siblings as well. They are truly Life Skills.

Beyond Nixon

New Federal Law—Springing Forward in March, Back in November

In August 2005, Congress passed an energy bill that included extending Daylight Saving Time by about a month.

Beginning 2007, DST will start the second Sunday of March (March 11, 2007) and end on the first Sunday of November (November 4, 2007).

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/daylightsaving.html>

SchoolFunding2003

This local yahoo group may be of interest to those you who seek information on education topics. The SchoolFunding2003 group contains education news of interest to Basic Aid school districts.

As the name implies, postings include articles about school funding but also include many other news articles, best practices, opinions, studies (and sometimes even blog entries) relating to a whole host of education topics including but not limited to:

5th Grade Community Service Project

All three 5th grade classes will begin a community service project beginning Feb 26 through March 9 as part of the 5th grade curriculum. This year they are participating in a program sponsored by WOW to help an organization called Animal Beacon of Light. All kids relate to and remember how important those wonderful stuffed animals friends were (and probably still are) in their lives. Animal Beacons of Light was founded to bring joy and light to the hearts of children around the world.

Fifth graders will collect donations of new and gently-used, soft stuffed animals. They will be freshened and energized and distributed to children in orphanages, organizations, shelters, and homes around the world—anywhere their presence is beneficial. In the past ten years, over 12,000 animals have been gathered, freshened, and gifted to those in need of love, comfort, and support. See the flyer in this issue with more information.

- closing the achievement gap
- foreign language instruction and ELL
- math education in a global economy
- student stress
- tips for parent advocacy, and
- standardized test scores

If you would like to take a peek, you can subscribe at: SchoolFunding2003- subscribe@ yahooroups. com and you can unsubscribe anytime at: SchoolFunding2003- unsubscribe@ yahooroups. com.

Lauren L. Janna is the only one who posts to the group, so there are no commentary streams that will fill your mailbox. Postings are frequent (sometimes multiple entries a day) so she suggests if you sign up, you might want to opt for emails to be delivered to you once a day via yahooogroup's "daily digest" option.

Tuck your napkin under your cin!

Save the date, Tuesday, March 20th, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Armadillo Willy's Restaurant, 1031 N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, is the location for our next Nixon Night Out event.

Take a break from cooking and join your friends at Armadillo Willy's for a night of great barbeque and fun for the whole family. Nixon School benefits too! Armadillo Willy's will donate 20% of our purchases to the school (dine in or take out). You'll be dancing the Texas two-step when you see how easy and fun it is to support Nixon School.

NEXT PUBLICATION

DATE: Friday, March 9

DEADLINE:

Thursday, March 1 at 5:00 p.m.

Principal: Barbara Welch

PTA Presidents: Jan Rossi
and Leslie Fiedler

Editor: Vicki Dempsey

Layout: Liz Fendorf

Lost & Found Overflowing!

If your child's closet is looking roomier than usual, check out our lost and found collection located at the base of the stairs leading to the main office. You might just discover that missing sweater, or long-lost lunchbox, or maybe something you didn't even realize was gone! Don't delay, because any items not claimed by the end of the month will be donated to a charitable organization.

Remember, if you put your student's name inside their clothing, the office staff can see that lost items get returned to them.

About *Nixon News*

Nixon News is a PTA funded newsletter, designed to serve as a parent educational and information resource. It is published every other Friday (except when holidays interfere). Submissions should be sent via e-mail to the editor, Vicki Dempsey. Either type the text directly in the body of the e-mail or attach a Microsoft Word Format file. If your article is on paper and cannot be submitted electronically or if you have a photo or graphic, please contact the editor for instructions. Deadlines are announced on the back page of every issue. They are normally (but not always) the Thursday one week before publication. Articles may be edited for spelling, grammar, clarity, and length. All submissions must include your name and contact information.

Information in this newsletter is provided as a community service. The mention of any business, service, or organization in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Nixon PTA or the PAUSD.