



NIXON NEWS

Nixon PTA Newsletter—Vol. 2006-2007 Issue No. 13—April 20, 2007
The L.M. Nixon Elementary School, 1711 Stanford Ave., Stanford, CA 94305 (650) 856-1622
<http://www.nixon.pausd.org>

Principal's Corner *By Barbara Welch*

Dear Nixon Families,

I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday. Many of you traveled but other families shared that they just relaxed and spent time together.

Disaster Drill

On Thursday, April 12th we participated in the district-wide disaster drill. This included our search and rescue teams, traffic control, first aid, and student release stations. All went as planned.

Curriculum Night, Tuesday, April 24th 6:30-7:30 p.m./ Dinner & Mini Book Fair Before

Curriculum Night is an opportunity for adults and children alike to socialize and enjoy, by grade level, how a specific curriculum develops. This year we will be showcasing our writing program. The uniqueness of this evening is that both families and teachers visit classrooms together. The adults are able to see how students approach curriculum at different developmental stages. Also, teachers get to see what other grades are doing and catch up with former students and their families. Although this is not an evening where teachers stay in their classrooms for the entire duration, they will all be in and out of their class if you have a specific question about something you saw. As you travel from class to class, ask the students about their work. It gives them a chance to shine and take pride in sharing their knowledge. To facilitate your travels around our campus, at the front door there will be a general map and brief description of what

to look for in each grade. There will also be a map of each pod on the outside door of the pod and the door of the pod into the library area. To experience the full impact of the evening with your children, you will want to start at the kindergarten and culminate at the fifth grade. This will allow you to look at how children build their knowledge and skills in one curricular area.

Nixon 5th graders will have pizza, drinks, and dessert available for purchase from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the theater doors near D-pod. This is by reservation only, so use the flyer that was sent home or the one in this issue.

Our Scholastic BUY ONE GET ONE FREE book fair is scheduled from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We invite you to the Nixon library to share in this celebration of books and reading and stock up on summer reading material. The "BOGO" fair is a wonderful opportunity for the students. All free items must be of equal or lesser value than the one(s) you buy. The fair will be books only!

Curriculum Night is very well attended, so parking may be challenging. If you are within walking distance, this would be a great family jaunt. We also encourage you to park on Tolman and Raimundo. The lower drop off parking lot and bus circle will be open.

Continued on page 2.

To Do List:

- Buy a book at the Scholastic Book Fair! Page 3*
- Donate to the Silent Auction! Page 5*
- Volunteer for the Nixon PTA! Page 9*
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CALENDAR

Tues. Apr. 24
Curriculum Night, 5:00 p.m.

Thurs. Apr. 26
Staff Appreciation Luncheon
11:30 a.m.

Mon. Apr. 30
STAR Testing Begins

Fri. May 4
PTA Executive Board and
General Mtg., 8:15 a.m.

Sat. May 5
May Fete Parade

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.

Principal's Corner *Continued from page 1.*

Come One, Come All to the May Fete Parade, May, 5th

This year's theme is the "Wonderful World of Make Believe." After the parade is the Annual Partners in Education Town Fair at Addison School until 1:00 p.m. You may ride any non-motorized wheels, use your creativity to dress up and bring your pets (also bring them water and a bag to clean up after them, too). In this issue of the Nixon News is the form that you fill out and return to the office to participate. Each child must be joined by a supervising adult or have a specific plan to be met at Addison where the parade terminates at approximately 10:20 a.m.

On the evening of Friday, May 18th Nixon will be having a celebration and community gathering, "Arts Around the World." We will be featuring student art, international food, a silent action to support Nixon programs, and some

student entertainment. This is not a talent show format but we will have some dancers and the Orff band. If your child would like to prepare a performance and would be interested in performing, please contact me by April 26th to discuss this.

I am looking forward to seeing all our community at these three events.

Barbara

Volunteers for May Fete Activities

PiE is actively seeking volunteers who can help with organizing (logistics, entertainment, rentals, booths, food catering, etc.) and supporting day-of activities for the May Fete on May 5th, 2007.

If interested, please contact Muneerah Merchant.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our Scholastic **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE** Book Fair is scheduled for Curriculum Night, April 24th. We invite you to Nixon to share in this celebration of books and reading and stock up on summer reading material.

The Fair will be open:

Tuesday, April 24th

11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

5.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25th

11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

1.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.

The "BOGO" Fair is a wonderful opportunity for the students. All free items must be of equal or lesser value than the one(s) you buy. The Fair will be books only!

Volunteers Needed for the End-Of-Year Nixon Staff Appreciation Luncheon Thursday, April 26th

Contributions of salads, main dishes, or desserts are requested (6-8 servings desired). Please bring your dish to the Nixon Theater April 26th by 11:15 a.m. Don't forget to pick-up any serving utensils anytime after 12:45 p.m.

Please, email Cheryl Wu if you can contribute food so we know we have enough for the staff. Thank you!

We also need 5-6 volunteers to cover the lunch yard duty and office staff so they may enjoy the luncheon. Please, contact Susan Nicholls if you are available.

5th Grade Community Service Project

Each year our 5th grade class takes part in a community service project. The class of 2007 choose to help Working Wonders in support of Animal Beacons of Light. The parent committee of Vicki Dempsey, Anat Admati, Patti Chang, and Donna Alkadri, in coordination with the 5th grade teachers, helped get the children organized at Nixon. Several other Palo Alto Schools and Scout troops were involved in the donation drive.

Animal Beacons of Light was founded to bring joy and light to the hearts of children of all ages around the world. Nixon 5th graders gathered donations of new and gently-used, soft stuffed animals, washed, freshened, and energized them to be distributed to children in orphanages, organizations, shelters, and homes around the world—anywhere their presence is beneficial. The project is global. Children in the U.S., Bosnia-Herzegovina, Peru, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, Mexico, Germany, France, Italy, China, Madagascar, South Africa, Scotland, Denmark, Colombia, Jordan, Ireland, Iceland, Iraq, and Slovenia are already being nurtured by stuffed animals from Animal Beacons of Light.

The project was kicked off at Nixon by a visit from founder Ellen Henson to teach the students about her organization. Ellen told them personal stories of how these stuffed animals have changed and brightened the lives of many needy children. The 5th graders were then divided into 3 committee groups, Promotions, Sorting, and Washing. The promotions committee was responsible for making posters and visiting classrooms to rally donations from the entire school. They made PA announcements and explained the types of stuffed animals to donate. The sorting group divided the animals and sorted out some unusable types that were then donated to another charity. The washing committee took home large bags of animals to wash, dry and brush. Several students then attended a community wide meeting on March 14th at Fairmeadow School. The children had a great time preparing stuffed animals for disbursement to other children worldwide. They cut off labels, made cards and attached tags. Over 60 + kids readied 2000-2500 animals in about two hours! All schools combined collected more than 4200 stuffed animals! A second tagging day had to be added. Ellen Henson beamed “This is by far the largest drive Animal Beacons of Light have ever been the recipient of!” Our Nixon kids were proud and pleased to have been a part of this wonderful opportunity to ‘share a friend’ with children worldwide. They thank everyone who helped organize the project and especially the children who parted with beloved stuffed animals to make the drive a success.

If you would like more information, or want to become involved with Animal Beacons of Light contact Ellen Henson.



Thank You Nixon Families for Supporting PiE

The final numbers for PiE's School Direct Appeal Campaign that ended on February 28, 2007, are in. The Campaign helped us raise over \$2.1M!!!

Almost 35% of all Palo Alto families participated in the campaign, up from 27% last year. Participation for the elementary schools was almost 50% (vs 43% last year) and for the secondary schools over 24% (vs 16% last year).

According to Muneerah Merchant, Executive Director of PiE, "The success of this year's fundraising efforts will help us further bolster our community wide fundraising capacity and parent participation rate."

In addition to parents in our district, family foundations, community residents, corporations, and other organizations have also helped make our campaign a success. For every dollar raised from the parent community, PiE raised over 30 cents from the extended community.

To find out more about PiE, the only non-profit foundation dedicated exclusively to supporting all PAUSD schools, visit www.papie.org.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS!!!

Participation Rates (Campaign End 2006-07): School Name (Percentage)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| * Addison (47.2%) | * Jordan (32.4%) |
| * Barron Park (26.4%) | * Briones (45.9%) |
| * Duveneck (48.6%) | * Nixon (47.0%) |
| * El Carmelo (62.0%) | * Ohlone (61.2%) |
| * Escondido (49.0%) | * Paly (22.8%) |
| * Fairmeadow (36.7%) | * Palo Verde (53.8%) |
| * Gunn (17.3%) | * Terman (31.1%) |
| * Hoover (42.1%) | * Walter Hays (66.7%) |
| * JLS (26.9%) | |

Nixon Silent Auction Let's Make It Happen!

This year we will be holding a Silent Auction in conjunction with the Arts Around the World Festivities on the evening of Friday, May 18th, in the Nixon Theatre. The Silent Auction committee is working diligently right now to solicit donations. Already, we have received vacation home rentals, activities with beloved teachers, fine wines, and sports tickets/memorabilia.

BUT WE NEED MORE!!! PLEASE participate in this important fundraising event by donating an auction item, party, or service. Can't think of one? Not a problem, we have lots of ideas, just ask. You probably know a business or service you frequent who would donate as well. All donations are tax-deductible, and funds raised are directly applied to Nixon School PTA educational programs and activities. Simply fill out a donation worksheet and bring it to the Nixon office, before May 1st.

If have questions, need more donation forms, please email Jim Chang or Yvonne Karanas.

May Playground Equipment
of the Month—Paddle Balls

Classroom Happenings

Fifth graders enjoyed hands-on science at a fun field trip to the Exploratorium in San Francisco recently. Many students looked deeper into the various science stations. One in particular showed the development of a fertilized chicken egg over a 7-day period. There were four individual eggs encased in clear plastic bags. Each was a day or so farther along in gestation. With the assistance of a secure magnifier we could see the brain, the spinal column and beating heart in the 5th to 7th day egg. It was fascinating!

Call for Volunteers: Nixon School Site Council

In May, elections will be held to select two new parent representatives to the Nixon Site Council. If you are interested in serving on Nixon's Site Council, please contact Teal Derrer (or Pam Rasmussen for more information.

The Nixon Site Council is an advisory body that represents the interests of all Nixon students. It develops and reviews the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and votes on how SIP funds from PAUSD are allocated at Nixon. In past years the Site Council has conducted a parent survey to provide feedback on how Nixon is addressing parent and student needs. See: <http://www.nixon.palo-alto.ca.us/site.htm>. Site Council members discuss issues that arise during the year, and make recommendations on school policies.

Site Council consists of twelve members, with an equal number of staff and parent representatives. Each representative is elected by their peers and serves a term of two years.

School Site Council meetings are generally held on the first Monday of each month, from 2:40 – 4:10 p.m. All Site Council meetings are open to the public and time is set aside for an open forum during each meeting.

Beyond Nixon

ASSEMBLY MEMBER IRA RUSKIN, who represents us in Sacramento, is holding two Town Hall Meetings on greenhouse gas emissions.

(1) Sat Apr 21, Library, Community Rm A, 610 Elm St., San Carlos, 10 a.m. to noon.

(2) Sat Apr 21, Hillview Community Ctr, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos, 1 to 3 p.m.

Everyone is welcome! Info: (650) 691-2121.

"PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE GARDEN: A PARENT & CHILD DISCOVERY CLASS"

Come explore & photograph Gamble Garden in the spring-time with your child (age 8 - 12). Wendy Hopfenberg will give a brief overview of garden photography & then lead us into the garden to snap away! Bring one camera to share or each bring your own -- either way, you'll have fun taking photos together that can be framed or made into a memory book of your special afternoon. Adults \$25 (members \$20), children \$5. Class limit 20. Sun., Apr 22, Gamble Garden, 2 to 4 p.m. Location: 1431 Waverley St., PA.

Sign up at <http://gamblegarden.org>

"RAISING EMOTIONALLY & SOCIALLY INTELLIGENT CHILDREN IN AMERICA"

Info: <http://pieducationandhealth.org/comeingevents.html>
Discussion in English; handouts in English, Chinese, Japanese, & Korean.) FREE. Sun., Apr 22, Meeting Rm*, PA Art Center, 2-3:30 p.m. Location: 1313 Newell Road, next to Main Library. (*Not the Auditorium, but a smaller room inside the Art Ctr. Limited seating, so RSVP to ensure a seat.) Questions & RSVPs: pi.health@gmail.com

LET'S TALK: NAVIGATING THE SPECIAL ED MAZE IN PAUSD

A parent-to-parent session. Do you have questions about IEPs, parental rights, or programs & services available to help your student? Whatever is on your mind, bring your questions & seek help from "seasoned" parents on how to make special education work better for your student in the PAUSD. Mon., Apr 23, Board Room, 25 Churchill, 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: CAC for Special Ed. Info: [Olenka Villarreal, os94301@yahoo.com](mailto:Olenka.Villarreal@os94301@yahoo.com).

THE CAPITOL STEPS, <http://capsteps.com/>, are coming to Gunn! Thu., Apr 26, Spangenberg (Gunn), 8 p.m. Tickets \$35 (reserved front-center section, \$50). (This is a fundraiser for the Gunn Robotics Team; ticket cost above \$15 is a tax-deductible donation.)

Write to capitolsteps_grt@yahoo.com for info on ordering & paying by check (no svc chg). Credit card orders (with svc chg):

<http://ticketweb.com/t3/event/EventListings?orgId=18024>

Info: capitolsteps_grt@yahoo.com

VISIT AUSTRIA WITHOUT LEAVING HOME!

Edu-Culture International (<http://www.educulture.org> -- they run Spanish Immersion's 8th-grade trip to Spain) is bringing high school students here from Austria, May 5 - May 19. They'll shadow at Gunn & Terman, & have other scheduled weekday activities. They're urgently looking for local families who'd like to host a student. (You don't have to have a high-school student!) Interested? Please contact Monica Roney, 510-845-2230, monica@educulture.org, ASAP.

NEWS FROM THE GUNN SPORTS BOOSTERS PLEASE ATTEND THE "CLASH OF THE TITANS" BASKETBALL GAME

This exciting school-wide and community event will take place in the Gunn gym on May 11, 7:00-8:30 PM. Gunn staff will take on Gunn's varsity boys and girls in a basketball game that promises to be both fierce and fun! Pizza, Caesar salad, soda, and snacks will be available for purchase. A flashy half-time show will include cheer, dance and step team routines; a free-throw contest; and raffle-drawing for up to \$5,000! Tickets are \$3 for students, \$5 for adults in advance (on sale in the SAC starting 4/30). At the door all tickets will be \$6 (kids 10 and under are free). Get ready for some serious hoops!

YOU CAN WIN \$5,000 IN CASH ON MAY 11!

Gunn Sports Boosters is having a "50/50 Cash Raffle" to raise money for the Boosters General Fund. This fund helps pay for uniforms, equipment, and facility upgrades not provided by PAUSD. Only 200 tickets will be sold for \$50 each. That gives each entry a 1 in 200 chance of winning up to \$5,000 in cash. The winner will be drawn at half-time at Clash-of-Titans on May 11th (winner does not need to be present to win). Please buy as many tickets as you'd like by sending a check to Gunn Sports Boosters Raffle, C/O Anne Maggioncalda, 4050 El Cerrito Rd, Palo Alto, 94306. A ticket stub will be mailed to you with your lucky number on it. For more info contact Anne (VP of Boosters Fund-raising) at 424-8056 or anmagg@stanfordalumni.org. Thank you for supporting our student athletes. Go Titans!

Join the Nixon PTA! There is a rewarding job just for you!

Could you be the next Parliamentarian, PTA Council Representative, or PiE Liaison? What about PTA Membership Coordinator, Nixon Names Directory Director, Website Coordinator, Family Math Night Coordinator, or the New Families Liaison?

The children of Nixon need **ALL** parents to step up and become a part of making Nixon great for all of us! Please contact Leisa Waschura, Jo Marcus, Gabriela Balas, Christine Abraham, or Sandra Nadim if you are interested in any of these or other PTA positions.

NEXT PUBLICATION

DATE: Friday, May 4

DEADLINE:

Thursday, April 26, 5:00 p.m.

Principal: Barbara Welch

PTA Presidents: Jan Rossi
and Leslie Fiedler

Editor: Vicki Dempsey

Layout: Liz Fendorf

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 last 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.

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