



# NIXON NEWS

Nixon PTA Newsletter—Vol. 2006-2007 Issue No. 3—September 29, 2006  
The L.M. Nixon Elementary School, 1711 Stanford Ave., Stanford, CA 94305 (650) 856-1622 <http://www.nixon.pausd.org>

## To Do List:

- Turn in your Sally Foster Giftwrap orders. See page 3
- Walk to School on 10/11.
- Go Ice Skating on 10/13.
- Turn in your Nixonnames Order Form. See page 3

## CALENDAR

**Tues. Oct. 3**  
Nixon Round Table Pizza Night

**Fri. Oct. 6**  
Sally Foster Giftwrap Orders Due

**Fri. Oct. 6, 8:15-10:00 a.m.**  
PTA Executive Board and General Meeting

**Fri. Oct. 6**  
Nixonnames Directory Forms Due

**Mon.-Fri. Oct. 9-13**  
Walk to School Week

**Wed. Oct. 11**  
Walk to School Day

**Fri. Oct. 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**  
Nixon Ice Skating Party Winter Lodge

**Mon. Oct. 16**  
Staff Appreciation Lunch

## Principal's Corner by Barbara Welch

Dear Nixon Families,

Thank you for helping us celebrate the opening of another great school year at the Back-to-School picnic yesterday. It is such a great way to set the tone for the year and meet the families in your children's classes.

### Responding to the Spring Parent Surveys

Last April, the Nixon families filled out our biannual parent survey. One of the areas where there was a lot of input was the playground in reference to supervision, activities, and expectations. As a result of

your comments we have the following program for this year.

- A noon supervisor's notebook, which clarifies duties, discusses how to resolve student disagreements with Conflict Resolution strategies and explains when and how games are played.
- YMCA staff organizing team sports three times a week. (Two days with grades 1-3 and the other with grades 4-5.)
- The library is open at lunch Tuesday to Friday.

*Continued on Page 2*

## PTA President's Message by Leslie Fiedler

As we say goodbye to summer and hello to autumn, activities at Nixon continue moving at a fast pace. The following events have come and gone since the last Nixon News was printed: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bike Safety, Picture Day, and the Nixon Back to School Picnic. Most after-school enrichment programs are in full swing, and parent volunteers are beginning to help in various classrooms, the library, and during other school activities. Thank you volunteers for sharing your valuable time and talents at Nixon. In depth reports on many of these activities will appear in the next edition of the Nixon News, so stay tuned....

Because so many families within the Nixon community have so much to offer in terms of ideas, we would like to invite you to attend our PTA meetings whenever possi-

ble. Your input is valuable, and your ideas help direct various school programs and activities. Although the Nixon PTA *Executive Board Committee Meeting* and *PTA General Meeting* have typically been held on separate days, we recently decided to change this format. Now, the two meetings will be combined whenever possible. This change means that some dates and times for the PTA meetings will change from those originally posted on the school calendar. Our first combined meeting is scheduled for **Friday, October 6, 8:15 to 10:00 a.m. in the Nixon Staff Lounge**. We strongly encourage parents to attend PTA meetings, if your schedule permits. The Nixon PTA is your PTA; your input is valuable and always welcome, so we hope to see you October 6 and at meetings throughout the year!

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*

- Cards and board games may be played in the library at lunch on Wednesday and Friday.
- Noon Science and Noon Art meet on alternating Wednesdays in the theater.
- Computer Lab is open from 10:00-10:20 a.m. from Monday to Thursday.
- Rules for common playground games are taught to students in the classroom.
- Handball rules were student/Principal developed and are posted in classes.
- We have a specific system for students to follow if they cannot work out their differences on the playground with a noon supervisor. This includes the opportunity to come up to the office, follow a cool down period and write or draw their concerns to be shared with an adult (usually the Principal).

Starting Wednesday, October 3, we will have an expanded playground activities program. We have cleaned out each of the exterior closets at the end of each pod and will store play equipment there for easy student access. Several times a week a cart with playground equipment will be rolled out. It will start with a variety of balls. Each week a new piece of equipment will be added to broaden the students' interests. These will include but certainly are not be limited to jump ropes, hula-hoops, Frisbees, batons, and balls/rackets.

It is important for all of us share *common* playground and physical education goals. The Council On Physical Education expresses this best with the statement: "Quality physical education along with daily recess are necessary component of the school curriculum that enable students to develop physical competence, health-related fitness, self responsibility, and enjoyment of physical activity. Recess provides children with discretionary time and opportunities

to engage in physical activity." Additionally, "...recess periods provide students with opportunities to resolve conflicts, solve problems, negotiate and work with others." To parents it sometimes looks as if a school does not provide students with enough activities in which to participate. Limited activities is done purposely to provide students with unstructured playtime so they can develop a variety of life skills. Among these is the skill of "creating their own fun." If you have any continuing questions please contact me.

### **The LifeSkills Program is in Full Swing**

As most of you remember, each year the staff selects three lifeskills to focus on for several months at a time. In the month of September, I reviewed previous skills and teachers taught playground behaviors and games. In September, there was a review of Conflict Resolution in the classrooms. In October and November, we will be working on the lifeskill, **Responsibility**. This includes classroom activities and an assembly. Listed below are several things that you could do between now and Winter Break to focus the concept of responsibility with your child at home.

- Go over the Nixon Handbook with your child. Have them ask questions and put in their own words the sections on behavior, tardies, and basic school rules.
- Design an emergency first aid kit for use in your home.
- Create an Emergency Drill In the House plan for your family to use in case of fire or other emergencies. Practice the plan.
- Create job(s) for your child that allows them support the family community by being a contributing member.

If you do one or more of these suggestions or others, of your own creation, have your child share them with his/her class.

*Barbara*

## **Are You Seeing Double? Are You Seeing Double?**

In order to reduce our printing costs, as well as save trees, we print just one copy of *Nixon News* per family. Only the youngest child in each Nixon family should bring a copy home. If your family receives multiple copies of *Nixon News*, please contact Donna Kruep or Leisa Waschura. Thank you for your help!

## **Sally Foster Giftwrap Order Deadline Extended!**

THE **SALLY FOSTER GIFT WRAP SALE** deadline is being extended until next Friday, October 6! You still have a chance to purchase items you normally buy anyway and help Nixon school at the same time. The Nixon PTA receives 50% of all sales, which goes towards computer software and maintenance, new library books, and classroom materials. Your order will be delivered to your child's classroom in early November, in time for the holidays. If you need another catalog, you can get one from the office. Questions? Contact Lori Abe or Van Cole.

### **Nixon On Ice!** *(A PTA Sponsored Event)*

NIXON'S ANNUAL **ICE SKATING PARTY** is coming on Friday, October 13 at the Winter Lodge from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. If you have not already signed up, please do so NOW! Costs are \$12 per skater including skate rental, and free for non-skaters. Extra sign-up/waiver forms are available in this issue of Nixon News and the school office. All children must be accompanied by responsible adults. Make sure you carefully complete the sign-up/waiver form and drop it off, along with your check made out to Nixon PTA, to the envelope provided in the front office to ensure expedient check-in the night of the party. You may also sign up at the door with check and completed forms. If you are looking for a fun and easy volunteer opportunity, this is your chance! We are looking for ice rink safety monitors and will need help checking in skaters. Pizza, drinks, and desserts will be available for purchase. Bring your family for a fun-filled evening with your Nixon friends! **DON'T MISS THIS ANNUAL EVENT!** Contact Lois or Lori Delp if you can help or if you have any questions.

### **Don't Be Left Out** *(A PTA Sponsored Event)*

Work has begun on putting together the Nixonnames school directory. If you did not turn in your completed form at registration and would like to have your family contact information appear in the directory (great for setting up play dates, birthday parties, etc.), please turn in your completed forms to the Nixon PTA drawer (attention Leslie Fiedler). The deadline for forms is October 6.

### ***Tuesday Night is Pizza Night!*** *(A PTA Sponsored Event)*

Nixon Night Out presents Round Table Pizza Night every first Tuesday of every month of this school year (October through June). Our first Pizza Night will be Tuesday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Round Table Pizza located at 405 California Avenue, Palo Alto. Our neighborhood Round Table Pizza restaurant has generously agreed to donate 20% of the receipts to support Nixon! This offer is for dine-in or carry-out, but excludes delivery. **So, make it Pizza Night every first Tuesday of the month!**

## **Penguins in Palo Alto?!**

No, it's the Palo Alto Black & White Ball, Saturday Oct. 7, 7:00 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road. The theme this year is 'Jet Set' and it is sure to be an exciting evening of delicious food, drink, dancing and outstanding entertainment. "I am really looking forward to attending the ball again this year. We had so much fun last time" remarked Nixon Mom Vicki Dempsey.

Proceeds support community youth programs, our schools, and a portion of this year's proceeds help meet our school's technology needs.

For more information and tickets go to:  
<http://paloaltoblackandwhiteball.com> or call the Ball hotline at (650) 739-9000.

## ***Take the Challenge!***



**Make your gift to *Palo Alto Partners in Education* NOW and every dollar "above and beyond" the suggested donation of \$500 per child will be matched, dollar for dollar.**

**If we meet the \$125,000 goal by November 1<sup>st</sup> we receive a bonus \$100,000!**

**PIE dollars raised this year are distributed on a per student basis to your schools' principals to support your child's excellent education in school year 2007-2008.**

**Remittance envelopes are available in your school office and you can also donate at:**

**[www.papie.org](http://www.papie.org)**

## **5th Grade Fundraiser a Success!** *By Annie Godfrey Weber*

Due to popular demand Sheryl and Rod Humble had to schedule **two** groups for the Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Nixon fundraiser sneak preview of the just finished, 90 million dollar Stanford Stadium. We tested the echoes in the tunnel entering the stadium, walked, rather than ran, the stairs to the highest point (which we noted was still lower than Hoover tower), and didn't touch the fresh paintwork while Rod answered a stream of questions about the stadium construction.

Rod was the head contractor at Vance Brown, the stadium builders who worked with the design/construct firm Hoover and Associates. To meet the extremely tight schedule 400 builders worked by day and 150 by night until 11:30 p.m. They came in on time and below budget.

At 50,000 seats the new stadium is 40,000 seats less than old one. This means the new stadium will fill up. The audience will be closer to the action with good sightlines and on

comfortable seats (even the bleachers have a back rest!) in a structure which meets current safety and seismic standards.

## **Pumpkin Festival**

*(A PTA Sponsored Event)*

Please join us and help judge the annual pumpkin-decorating contest!

We meet Halloween morning for about an hour. That's all!

It's a lot of fun!

All the children receive a ribbon for their creation with an award that we make up. Here is a sampling from last year:

*“Bootastic Award”*  
*“ET Phone home award”*  
*“Ms. Scream of the year award”*  
*“Most Ghostly Candy Dish Award”*  
*“Best surgical procedure award”*  
*“Best sinister eyes award”*  
*“The Fairy Princess Award”*  
*“Mr. Multiple Personality Award”...*

THANK BOO!  
*Sukey Bryan*

# S.O.S. HELP

## *Volunteer Help Wanted Classified Ads*

### **Wanted: Spirit Shop Chairperson**

Retail experience not necessary. Run the Nixon Spirit Shop and help kids and families order and/or purchase Nixon Logo tee shirts, sweat-shirts, caps, and various logo items. A percentage of sales help raise funds for our school.

Responsibilities include promoting sales of Spirit Shop inventories at school events and through out the year.

The benefits include: easy time commitment, fun job, meet new people, see our kids enjoy wearing their logo clothes. Contact Pam Rasmussen for more information.

If you can tune a violin, viola, or cello, we desperately need your help in the beginning strings and orchestra classes. If you can spare 10 minutes at the beginning of class to help tune instruments, please call Phyllis at 329-3944. Thank you for sharing your time with the children.

Music lessons at Nixon are held on:

Monday, 10:25-11:05 a.m.

Wednesday, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

## **International Walk to School Week October 9-13**

Join kids and their schools around the world and in Palo Alto for Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 11. How far can your feet take you? Do your part on October 11<sup>th</sup> by walking, riding a bike, taking the bus, or using a carpool! If you can help with Walk to School activities (monitoring walkers, putting up posters, etc.), please contact event coordinator, Leslie Fiedler.

# Way2Go!

## **Lice Training**

It is that time of year when head lice can become a problem. Your Classroom Volunteer Coordinator (CVC) will be contacting parents to volunteer to attend a one hour long lice training session to be held by Faith Syed and Linda Lenoir. Each classroom will need two (2) volunteers to come to the training and conduct lice checks of the children in your child's classroom at least twice this school year. The training session will be held on **Wed., Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the Nixon Staff Lounge. Checking for lice is not complicated or hazardous. Examination gloves are worn by the checkers, as they examine the children's scalps for lice and/or their eggs. Please let your CVC know if you are willing to help.

## Attention Field Trip Drivers:

For some local field trips, children will be driven in private cars. If you think you may be driving this year, please fill out a "Private Car Travel Check" form and return it to the office. Fill it out now and save yourself the time before a field trip! You must have this form on file in order to drive. Pick up the form from Becky in the front office.

## Sign up for Nixon e-News!

Nixon has an e-mail list for parents and staff interested in receiving weekly updates on school events. To subscribe (or unsubscribe) from the list, send e-mail to: majordomo@laki.pausd.org with the words "subscribe nixon" (or "unsubscribe nixon") in the body (not the subject) of the message.

If you have items that should be publicized in e-News, e-mail Linda Baker.

### **NEXT PUBLICATION**

**DATE:** October 13

### **DEADLINE:**

Thurs., Oct. 5 at 5 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 front 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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