

**From:** "Mohr Elementary PTA" <theeagleexpress@comcast.net>  
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# The Eagle Express

## Mohr PTA's E-Newsletter

March



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### Greetings, Mohr Eagles!!

At the February 24th PTA meeting, the PTA Nominating committee announce nominees for next year's Executive Board. The following people have agreed serve Mohr PTA for the 2010-2011 school year:

President: Laurie Yoon-Park  
 Executive Vice President: Beth Gallagher  
 VP of Programs and Services: Laura Murdock  
 VP of Membership: Beth Limesand  
 VP of Legislation: Kathy Shin  
 Secretary: Elaine Marchant Panwar  
 Treasurer: Maya Balyasny  
 Financial Secretary: Winnie Lang

At our **next PTA meeting on Wednesday, March 24th at 7:00PM** we will be on the above slate for our Executive Board next year. However, as with any P election, we will call for nominations from the floor; so if you are interested in a the above positions, please let [Parliamentarian Ellen Cummings](#) know.

We hope you will come on March 24th to show your support for next year's Mo PTA Board members!

Additionally, we have many open Committee Chair positions for next year. Ple take a look at these [committee job descriptions](#), and let [Beth Limesand](#) or [Lau Yoon-Park](#) know what you'd be interested in working on next year! Many hand make light work, and a successful PTA and school!

Mark Your Calendar!

### Important Dates

- March 3:** Science Fair Proboards for sale, 3-3:45pm
- March 8:** PTA Executive Board Meeting
- March 9:** PPIE Student Grant Application deadline
- March 10:** Sandia Labs Family Science Night 6:30-8pm
- March 11-12:** Minimum Days, Kindergarten AM schedule



[Incoming MS Meetings](#)

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Quick Links

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[Join PTA!](#)

Mohr  
Attendance Line



(925) 426-4256

[Mohr Student Handbook](#)



**PTA Members Get Discounts With Local Businesses**  
The Pleasanton PTA Council

**March 22-26:** Spring Book Fair in Library

**March 24:** Book Fair Family Shopping Night, 5-8pm

**March 24:** Mohr Science Fair Expo 5:30-7pm, MPR

**March 24:** PTA Meeting -- Board Elections 7pm, MPR

**March 31:** Deadline to submit nominations for Excellence in Education Awards

**April 1: NO SCHOOL -- TEACHER FURLOUGH DAY --- NEW\*\***

**APRIL 2-9:** NO SCHOOL, Spring Break

**April 20:** PPIE Education Grant Application deadline

**April 26-May 7:** STAR Testing

**May 10-12:** STAR Testing Make-up days

**May 28: NO SCHOOL -- TEACHER FURLOUGH DAY --- NEW\*\***

**May 31: No School -- Memorial Day**

**June 1: NO SCHOOL -- TEACHER FURLOUGH DAY --- NEW\*\***

**\*\*New NO SCHOOL days are due to new negotiated teacher salary give-backs. Please add them to your school calendar**

To view the full Mohr PTA calendar for the year, [click here](#)

SAVE OUR FALL EVENT AND 2010-11 YEARBOOK!

## Fall Family Event Chairpersons Needed!

PTA is in need of a Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons to organize Mohr's annual fall event for our families next year. This event has looked different over the years depending upon who has chaired it -- from Harvest theme, to Western BBQ, to Carnival format. Line Dances, Cake Walks, Chicken-Dancin' Principals, lots of possibilities!



We are open to any ideas you might have and ask that anyone interested in coordinating this event, PLEASE come forward as soon as possible so we can keep this much loved family event!

**If no one steps forward, we will have to cancel.** Please help the PTA to SAVE THIS EVENT by contacting Beth Limesand at [elimesand@comcast.net](mailto:elimesand@comcast.net) or 485-4962 to volunteer. We have contacts for DJ's, carnival, and catering companies as well as leadership students at Amador and Foothill who love to fulfill their graduation requirement of service hours by volunteering at Mohr Events!

## Yearbook Chairpersons Needed!

This spring's yearbook will be our current chairpersons' swan song. We need someone or a few someones to take on the task of making the memories shine next year!



is joining with local businesses for *PTA Shops Ptown*. The program is an opportunity to support local businesses using your PTA membership. Just show your PTA card to receive discounts from participating downtown merchants. By buying in Pleasanton, not only are you helping the local economy, you are helping our town protect important city services. For example, by spending \$100 with a locally-owned business, \$68 stays here in town. With a retail chain, \$43 of that same \$100 stays in the area. For more information, click on the box above.

District Info  
Check out the Community Events, after-school opportunities, and sporting team sign-ups as publicized by PUSD.

[Pleasanton Unified School District](#)

[District Posted Flyers](#)

[e-Connection Community Events](#)

[My Nutrikids Lunch Prepayment](#)

[Adult Education Classes](#)

Disclaimer:

Pleasanton Unified does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the content of any written or electronic material displayed or provided. This information is provided for your convenience. Parents/guardians are responsible for determining the potential merits of such providers.

The yearbook layout is all done digitally, and student portraits are provided by our school pictures vendor. The yearbook chairs arrange for each class to have a two page layout -- portraits on one side, and "candid" photos (taken by each classroom's designated photographer or room parent) on the other. There are also layout pages for various events that take place during the year.

Contact Beth Limesand at [elimesand@comcast.net](mailto:elimesand@comcast.net) or 485-4962 to with questions or to volunteer.

## Science Garden Help Needed

### Garden Friends

To all those interested in helping our Garden Project..we have just been given clearance to re-build our irrigation set up. I am looking for a few folks willing and able to take charge of the job. At this point I don't think the kids are ready to take that on but certainly could help if given enough direction.



Several families have offered to make donations of materials so I am including a list below. Once again, thank you to those that are able to pitch in and help us get this project going.

- irrigation tubing (black 3/16 - 1/4 in diameter) 200ft
- fertilizer by the bag
- circular brick portions to build a barrier around the large drain appr. 2 ft diameter
- seedling trays ( for starting seeds in class) small sections..can be recycled from plants purchased
- peat moss - several bags
- spray nozzle for hose
- 3 large watering cans

These items do not all have to be purchased. Gently used is fine as well

Many thanks,  
Ms. Conley

California PTA Legislative Informational Alert

## California State PTA Prepares Action Plan

February 16, 2010

***Three important initiatives lead the way for***



***investing in children***

Now is the time for action to help California's more than 9 million children. California State PTA is leading the call for action with three important initiatives. We'll be telling you more about each of these in the coming days and weeks.

1. **PTA Opposes Additional Cuts in Governor's Proposed Budget for 2010-2011**
2. **PTA SUPPORTS Qualifying the "Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act" for November 2010 Ballot**
3. **PTA To Join School Finance Lawsuit Against the State**

[See the full Legislative Informational Alert here.](#)

***Support Local School Funding  
for Local Schools***

We Need Your Help!

Please sign the petition to qualify the Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act today! As you know, the California State PTA has endorsed the initiative to lower the passage rate for parcel taxes from two-thirds to 55 percent. We need your help to collect 1 million signatures by the beginning of April to ensure that this measure qualifies for the November 2010 statewide ballot.

[Click here for all the details!](#)

Science Fair Event Volunteers Needed

**LOOKING FOR SCIENCE FAIR VOLUNTEERS!!**

We are looking for volunteers to help us with the annual science fair. There are several times that are available:

**March 3:** help sell proboards after school 3-4 pm

**March 10:** help with the Family Science Night (sponsored by Sandia Labs) 6:30-8:00pm

**March 24:** Day of Science fair (help monitor projects in the multi purpose room) 5:30-6:15pm or 6:15-7pm

**March 25:** help take down and distribute projects to classrooms

Please contact Beth Gallagher at [bethgallagher@comcast.net](mailto:bethgallagher@comcast.net) or Laurie Yoon-Park at [laurie.yoon@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.yoon@gmail.com)



Thank you!

Beth Gallagher and Laurie Yoon-Park  
Science Co-Chairs

Science Expo Coming Soon! Print out Entry Form Below

## Science Expo (formerly Science Fun Fair) Coming Soon!

Due to budget cuts, the Annual Science Event is going to be a little different this year. This year, our school will host its own science fair. It will be on **Wednesday, March 24th**. All students will bring their projects to the MPR before school on the 24th of March. Students may choose to work with a partner or by themselves. All participating students will receive a recognition certificate.



Classes will tour during the day, and families are invited to visit in the evening from 5:30 to 7pm.

Proboards will be available for purchase on **Thursday March 4th from 3-3:45pm**, and in the office thereafter until they are sold out.

**Entry information, guidelines for setting up your display and suggestions for finding science project ideas available by [clicking this link](#).**

Happy discovering!!

## Excellence in Education Awards

### Nominations for Excellence in Education Awards

**Deadline: March 31, 2010**

The Pleasanton PTA Council is now accepting applications for the 20th Annual Excellence in Education Awards. The Pleasanton community is encouraged to nominate a special teacher, administrator, or staff member of the Pleasanton Unified School District.

Individuals should be nominated based on personal merit and exemplary contributions to public education in Pleasanton. Please see the nomination form for eligibility requirements and instructions:

[EIE 2010 Nomination Form - pdf](#)  
[EIE 2010 Nomination Form - Word doc](#)

For more information, please see our [Excellence in Education Awards page](#) under Programs.

## State Budget Update

**State budget: Time running out on special session as LAO totes up hit to Prop. 98**

### Analysis from CSBA's Governmental Relations Department

Published: February 18, 2010

The state Legislature seems poised for action as the 45-day clock on the special session Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called to address the



state's budget deficit winds down to its conclusion next Monday.

While lawmakers are not currently taking up any of the governor's specific proposals to make cuts to education for this year, school funding may be affected by the governor's proposed gas tax swap, which would move some revenues out of the state's general fund-and could thereby lower the Proposition 98 base by \$800 million.

**Meanwhile, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office has released a report confirming CSBA's own analysis that the governor's 2010-11 budget proposal would cost K-12 public schools \$2.4 billion-despite Schwarzenegger's vow to "protect education funding."**

[Please click on this link to continue reading this article.](#)

Kid's Fun Run March 8

### California Peace Officers' Association Memorial Run (5K, 10K, and Kid's Challenge) and Family BBQ

The CPOA 5K and 10K Run is a family oriented event open to all Law Enforcement, their families, and all friends of Law Enforcement. This annual event is held to honor and remember peace officers who have fallen in the line of duty. All proceeds go directly to **Nor-Cal Chapter of C.O.P.S., Concerns of Police Survivors**, an organization whose sole mission is to assist with the rebuilding of lives of surviving family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

[Click on this link for more information and to register.](#)

For more information on C.O.P.S., go to: <http://www.norcalcops.org>.

Sign Up for Chess Classes

### Chess Classes at Mohr

Sign your child up for chess classes, held here at Mohr from 8:15-9:15 AM on Wednesdays (late start day, so the children go directly to class afterwards.)

U.S. Chessmates has been teaching district approved chess classes at Mohr for the past few years. Chess has been credited with teaching children critical analytical skills and having a positive effect on academic performance.



**New session starts March 10!**

[Click here for more information and the registration form.](#)

Pleasanton PTA Council Needs YOU!

### Pleasanton PTA Nominations Now Being Accepted

The Pleasanton PTA Council's nominating committee is looking



for members who are interested in serving on the council's executive board for the 2010-2011 school year. The Pleasanton PTA Council serves the eight school PTA units by providing training and other support enabling collaboration between the units and school district. The board is made up of a president, executive vice president, secretary, treasurer, auditor and four vice presidents for student and community services, communications, membership and health and safety.

We want to have as many schools represented on the council as possible. For more information, contact Diane VanWagner at [vanwagners@comcast.net](mailto:vanwagners@comcast.net) or Jodie Vashistha at [jodie@vashistha.com](mailto:jodie@vashistha.com).

## STAR Testing Dates

### STAR Testing

Mark your calendars!

This spring, your student, along with public school students throughout California, will participate in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program that includes the tests listed below. Students at our school will take the tests on the following dates:



California Standards Tests (CSTs)

**Administration Date(s): April 26<sup>th</sup> - May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Make-Up Date(s): May 10-12**

**It is essential that your child attends school promptly and everyday during this time period. Please make efforts that they receive a good night's rest and breakfast in the mornings.**

Most of our students will take the California Standards Tests (CSTs). The CSTs are given in English. Test results for the CSTs will be sent to each student's home address in one STAR Student Report.

STAR Program reports provide valuable information about your student's academic achievement. Please plan to keep these reports for use when talking with the teacher(s) about ways to support your student's academic progress.

Contact **Robin Sehrt-- test administrator** during regular school hours if you have questions about the STAR Program or the testing schedule.

Pasta Feed March 21

**The First Tee Tri-Valley Youth Development Workshop and Pasta Feed -- Sunday March 21**

[For more information, and to sign-up, click here](#)

SARC Report Released

## School "Report Card" Available Online

Mohr's 2008-09 SARC Report has been released. Local schools annually publish their School Accountability Report Card (SARC), as mandated by state law. The SARC is intended to provide parents and members of the public with information about each school's mission and goals, academic performance, parent and community support, school safety, credentials of staff members, student attendance, target programs, support services, and more.

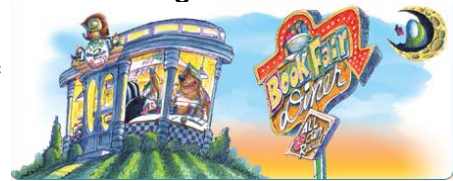


[Click on this link to download the report.](#)

## Book Fair Official Website

### Our Spring Book Fair Is Coming!

The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way! At the Book Fair you will find the latest and finest titles for kids, as well as books of interest to parents.



Book Fair dates are **March 22-26**. Mark your calendar for our Family Event where the whole family can join in the fun. And, you can contribute books to your child's classroom library.

The Book Fair is a great way to get everyone excited about reading. See you there!

Click below to see selections, make wishlists for your children and/or volunteer to help out!!

[See our official Book Fair website for all the amazing details!](#)

If you can help, whether setting up, working the book fair, or baking/providing cookies for the Family Night event, [please click here!](#)

## Celebrate Science

### March is Mohr's Celebration of Science Month

Mark your calendars for a number of events to celebrate SCIENCE. Staff and students are inviting families and friends to join in the activities as we take time to acknowledge and give a thumbs up to all that is the world of science. Join us for a time when Fans of all things "PH"ysical join with Earth science and Ecology buffs and lovers of life science to give a shout out to Scientists young and old and to the scientist in us all.



#### Special Events

March 8: Assembly "Science Focus" Bulb Man visits grades 3-5.

March 10: Sandia Labs, Family Science Night

March 24: Student Science Expo Projects are due before school

March 24: Science Expo Night in MPR 5:30-7pm

#### Lunch Time Events

Critter Carnival: Critter club members share animals with all students at a lunchtime event  
 Eco/Science Club Energy Trivia Game - Lunchtime  
 Month Long Science Trivia Game: weekly drawings all grades

### **Garden Activities**

Coming up: Lab visits, planting, Garden Club stepping stone project. Happy Gardening!

### **March in the Science Lab: Look at what we are learning!**

1<sup>st</sup> grade - Measuring Matter, Animal Behaviors

2<sup>nd</sup> grade -Life Cycles-animals Begin plants

3<sup>rd</sup> grade - Life science and life cycles/Ocean Life Labs

4<sup>th</sup> grade- continue PEAK actions, energy labs and activities. All things energy are taking shape in the lab

5<sup>th</sup> grade - Physical science unit continues with chemistry and physics labs. Student challenges begin.

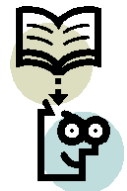
Parents, you will be amazed at the work done in the lab. Ask to see your child's Science Notebook. Each lab includes a short writing or drawing component to reinforce the hands on experience. Even the primary grades are starting these processes. You will see data collection, observations, predictions, inferences and more - Take a look. I am so proud of what our students can do.

***Mikki Conley, Science Specialist***

## Parent Education Classes Offered

### Parent Education

Pleasanton PTA Council announces its 2010 Speakers Series, in conjunction with Amador Valley Adult & Community Education. PTA Council & PUSD Adult Ed are partnering to present free parent education seminars chosen to address topical concerns of our families.



### **How to Raise Fiscally Responsible Children -**

**Thursday March 11th from 6:30 to 8:30pm, Amador Valley High Library**

Whether your children are 5 or 15, it's never too late or too early to teach them the value of a dollar. Learn effective strategies to get your kids excited about money and what it can do for them!

Speaker Brian Krebs and Erich Zielonka

Mr. Krebs and Mr. Zielonka are financial advisors with Waddell and Reed in Walnut Creek working with clients for appropriate asset allocation, retirement and estate planning, college savings planning, life insurance and long term care needs.

### **Parenting an Anxious Child**

**Thursday, April 29, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30pm, Amador Valley High Library**

Parenting an anxious child is not easy, but anxious children can be helped to overcome their fears, and parents play an important part in the solution. Dr. Michael Tompkins describes the nature of childhood anxiety and describes several strategies for parenting the anxious child. Special attention is given to helping the clingy child, the shy child and the worrier.

Speaker: Michael Tompkins

Michael A. Tompkins, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist, a founding partner of the San Francisco Bay Area Center for Cognitive Therapy, Assistant Clinical Professor at the

University of California, Berkeley, and a Founding Fellow of the Academy of Cognitive Therapy. Dr. Tompkins specializes in the treatment of anxiety disorders and depression in adults, adolescents and children.

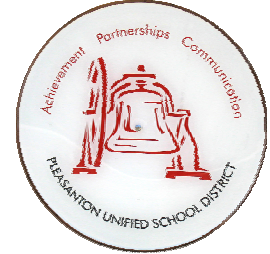
To register, call: Amador Valley Adult School at: (925) 426-4280 or visit <http://pleasanton.k12.trivalley.com/adulted/coursecatalog/index.asp?CategoryID=15>

## Parents of Incoming Kindergartners

### NEW KINDERGARTEN STUDENT PARENT MEETINGS

Parents who are planning to register their children for kindergarten in the Pleasanton Unified School District (2010-2011 school year) are invited to attend the final meeting scheduled for your convenience from 6:00-7:00 PM in the school Multi-Use Room on:

- **Tuesday, March 2, 2010** at Fairlands Elementary School Multi-use Room
- This meeting is intended for parents only.



Topics of discussion will be typical school day, kindergarten registration procedures and kindergarten round-up, required immunizations, getting your child ready to attend school, and the kindergarten parent handbook and registration booklets will be distributed. These meetings are intended for parents only.

[Click here for new Kindergarten Student Meetings flier.](#)

## Parents of 5th Graders

### Getting Ready for 2010-11 School Year 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Information Nights

Harvest Park	
Laptop info night	<b>March 9, 7PM *</b> Harvest Park MP
GATE info	<b>March 9, 6PM *</b> Harvest Park MP

**\* These times were switched in last week's newsletter -- apologies for any confusion**

## Student and Education Grants Available

### Pleasanton Partnerships In Education (PPIE) Student and Education Grant Deadlines Approaching

PPIE Foundation Student Grant applications are now being accepted for the second cycle of funding. Funding is available in amounts up

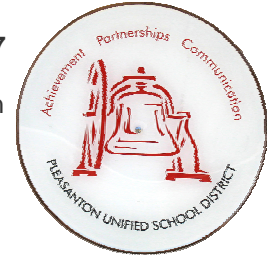


to \$500 per project/per year for extracurricular or co-curricular PUSD student projects. Remember, all applications must be student authored. See the application packet for complete details. Application packets may be obtained from the PPIE Foundation website, <http://www.ppie.org/grants.html> or Mohr PPIE Parent Ambassador (Praveen Hari, [praveenhari@yahoo.com](mailto:praveenhari@yahoo.com)), or by contacting the PPIE office at [mail@ppie.org](mailto:mail@ppie.org) or (925) 846-5620. Application deadline for cycle #2 is **March 9, 2010**.

PPIE Foundation Education Grant application packets may be obtained from the PPIE website, <http://www.ppie.org/grants.html>. This year's deadline for Education Grant applications is **April 20, 2010**. Education Grants are available to teachers and faculty of PUSD and fund in amounts up to \$2500. For more information, contact Mohr PPIE Parent Ambassador, or contact the PPIE office at [mail@ppie.org](mailto:mail@ppie.org) or (925) 846-5620.

## Register your Incoming Kindergartner March 17 and 18 KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP / REGISTRATION OF NEW ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-5

Kindergarten Round-up and registration will be held **March 17 and 18, 2010** in the Amador Valley High School Gym, 1155 Santa Rita Road, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. (Enrollment is not based on first-come first-served basis) [Click here to view Kindergarten Round-up flier.](#)



After Round-Up dates you may register at your resident school site.

Kindergarten registration is intended for current Pleasanton Unified School District residents only. Families anticipating a move into Pleasanton Unified School District boundaries need to know that registration procedures cannot be completed before the family moves into the district. School-district residents **MUST** provide two current and different utility bills.

During two days each spring, parents are encouraged to enroll kindergarten-age students in the district. The spring registration period is important for the district to determine the number of kindergarten classes necessary for the following school year. Children are eligible for kindergarten if they have reached 5 years of age on or before December 2 of that school year. One of the following proof of age and residency is required:

- Certified copy of a birth record or a statement of the local registrar or county recorder certifying the date of birth, or
- Baptism certificate duly attested, or
- Passport, or
- Affidavit proving the age of the child.

Special Education "Make A Difference" Awards



**Nomination Form - Due Monday, April 12, 2010**

[Click here for Nomination form.](#)

## Math, Language Arts Summer Enrichment Enopi Learning Center Summer Intensive Program 2010

Description: Intensive enrichment program in Math and Language Arts, utilizing E.nopi and other materials. Math will cover student's appropriate level topics (determined by assessment test), word problem solving and math preview of topics to be covered in the following (fall) grade level. Language Arts will cover reading comprehension, writing, grammar and vocabulary.



Duration : July 19th ~ August 13 (4 weeks)

[Click here for more information and enrollment](#)

After School Enrichment

### Fliers for After School / Other Activities at Mohr

The following are extra-curricular activities currently available at Mohr either before or after school:

[Art Experience Classes: Nirmitee Arts](#)

[Chess Classes: US Chessmates](#)

[Learn Hindi: HindiforUS](#)

[IES Language Foundation](#) -- Spanish, French and Mandarin

[Cub Scouts Pack 934](#)

[Girl Scouts](#)

[Spectrum of Science](#)

Other activities approved by the district offered at other locations:

[EDU Escalate Academy](#)

[Young Ivy Academy](#)

[E.nopi Pleasanton Learning Center](#) [E.Nopi Summer Intensive Program](#) -- **New!**

[West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy](#)

[Private Tutoring](#)

[Sports](#)



[Community Recreation/Activities Guide](#)

[2-1-1 Confidential Services](#)

Beth Limesand  
President, Mohr PTA  
*everychild.onevoice.*