

news and events

THE EAGLE EXPRESS

Joe Kettwig Principal
 Attendance 461 7889 ext. 2
 Office 426 4256

December, 2007

Principal's Message

Good-bye to a Friend

Many People have noticed that a familiar face is missing from Mohr School in recent weeks. **Mrs. Bonnie McLaughlin**, our intrepid crossing guard, has retired from duty. For the last 7 years, Bonnie has maintained her station on the corner at the entrance to the parking lot at Mohr, crossing children and parents safely in the two directions, while deftly managing the hundreds of cars that pass that intersection each morning and afternoon. Bonnie was known for her smile, a wave, and a friendly word to all who passed her. She cared for children, and they cared for her. Her decision to retire was a difficult one, but she now has well-deserved time to spend with her daughter and grandchildren. One never thinks about the important role that everyone takes in making a school successful, no matter how small or large their job is. Bonnie proved that the role of Crossing Guard is very important. The community of Mohr School will miss her, and we thank her for her dedication to the children of the school.



Mrs. Ann Fischer works in the Resource Specialist Program assisting Mrs. DiGirolamo in working with students requiring academic assistance. She has been a dedicated support provider to our school for 10 years. While you may have never met her, her work is outstanding and very necessary to us.

In the Special Day Class taught by Mrs. Ryor, there are three aides who perform vital responsibilities in supporting children. **Mrs. Keelie Petros**, **Mrs. Priya Kulkarni**, and **Mrs. Cheryl Andora** help provide a wonderful environment for the group of children in that very special class. Their work makes the time children spend in that class be productive and helpful to the children.

In other classrooms, three other people perform tasks that are essential to the success of individual students as well as their classroom peers. **Mrs. Christine Schultze**, **Mrs. Allison Cox**, and **Mrs. Chase Chan** work in specific classrooms to help the teacher develop appropriate programs for specific children requiring complicated services to be successful in the regular program. Their work helps all children in those classes as well as the individual students who are targeted by their services.

We are lucky to have such dedicated people working at our school to benefit all children.

-Joe Kettwig, Principal

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Inside this Issue:

School News	School News	PTA News
Important Dates 2	E-Connection 3	Birthday Marquee 6
Science Lab Needs Donations 2	PTA President's Corner 4	PPIE 7
Cafeteria News 2	Supply Kit Chair Needed 4	Pleasanton Library Presents 7
Science Fair 2	School Picture Day 4	Parent Education Classes 7
GATE Nominations Deadline 2	Yearbook News 4	Borders Essay Contest Winner 7
Multicultural/Heritage Event 3	Reflections Art Show 5	Mini Cheer Camp 7
Friends Helping Friends 3	e-Scrip 6	Amador Cheer Clinic 7
Holiday Reading 3		

Still Need Donations for Science Lab



Thank you to those that have been offering to help in the lab. We are slowly getting the pieces together and making progress towards a stocked and organized lab. There is light at the end of the tunnel.....thank you.

Many have been asking for a science lab wish list. So here we go ...

- *Drying rack (hangs on wall for beakers and other glassware)
- *Small to medium book shelf
- *Goose neck lamps
- *Old towels for clean up
- *Vinyl table cloths
- *Dish soap
- *Extra large construction paper (larger than 12x18)
- *Pipe cleaners
- *Google Eyes
- *Hot glue guns
- *Hot glue (low tem oval and round large and small)
- *Paper towels (sturdy ones)
- *Electric pencil sharpener
- *Heavy duty Foil
- *Parchment paper
- *Non-Fiction Science books (upper and lower grades)
- *Please continue dropping off magazines (nature, garden etc.)

Help ... I am looking for a pet store where I can buy crickets and mice close to school.

Thanks so much for your support,
Ms. Conley, Science Specialist

Cafeteria News



Organic soy milk will now be an option with the cafeteria meals at no extra charge beginning Monday, December 3rd. There will still be a \$1 ala carte price.

Science Fair 2008



Plans are underway for the 2008 Science Fair. This year we will kick off this exciting event on February 6th with an information assembly. There will be a science fair workshop where students can purchase boards for their projects and look through science books for ideas. This date has not yet been determined. The Mohr School Science Fair will be March 18th and the district wide one will be at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on March 19th.

There will be more information as we get closer to this annual event.

Important Dates

Parent Communication Council Holiday Luncheon, Bernal Room, PUSD	December 6
Aluminum Can/Recycling Drive	December 7
PTA Executive Board Holiday Luncheon	December 10
Gate Testing Nomination Forms Due	December 10
Multicultural/Heritage Event Planning mtg. 9:15am MPR	December 12
Eagle Express Articles Due	December 17
MINIMUM DAY/KG Early Day Grades 1-5 attend 8:15-12:30 All Kindergarten 8:10-11:30	December 21
NO SCHOOL - Winter Break	December 24 - January 4
School Resumes	January 7

The next issue of the Eagle Express will be distributed January 9

Last Call for GATE Nominations



Nominations for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) testing in 2008 are being accepted now through **Monday, December 10, 2007.**

Parents may nominate their child for GATE testing by submitting a completed Parent Nomination / Questionnaire / Permission for GATE to the Special Projects Office by December 10, 2007. Parents wishing to nominate their child are encouraged to talk with their child's teacher about the benefits and implications of GATE testing.

The Parent Nomination for GATE form can be found on the district web site [<http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us>]. Click on the Educational Services button, then the GATE button, and then the Identification button. There, parents can read the instructions and download the [<http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/pub/gate/Nomination05.pdf>] District GATE parent nomination form.

Nomination forms are also available at each school site.

Multicultural/Heritage Event Planning Meeting



You are invited to Mohr's Multicultural/Heritage Event Planning Meeting on Wednesday, December 12th 9:15am – 10:15am in Room 11B.

The theme this year is: "Stories From Around The World."

This event is not just for recent arrivals to our country. Many of us have parents or grandparents that came from another country and some may be of Native American heritage. Take this opportunity to learn more about your "roots", show pride in your heritage, and share it with the children.

We have no representation from Africa, Australia, Native Americans, USA, and little from Europe. Please come and join us in planning the activities for this year's event. We also need parents who can teach folk/cultural dances or a skit. To get involved, come to our meeting or contact **Elaine Marchant Panwar** at: Elaine@panwar.name or (925) 734-8428.

Calling All Kids!



Do you want to learn a cultural dance, perform in a short skit, or sing a song from another culture? Join the Mohr Elementary Multicultural/Heritage Show! This year's theme: "Stories From Around the World." Performance date: Friday, April 18th, 2008.

Every child is encouraged to participate regardless of cultural background. Children must attend weekly practices and rehearsals. Children are assigned by their availability unless otherwise requested. If interested, please pick up a sign up form at the Mohr School Office and turn it in to your teacher or the office by December 20th.

For more information, contact Performance Chair, **Hetal Gaiamo** at: hgaiamo@yahoo.com or MC/Heritage Event Chair, **Elaine Marchant Panwar** at: Elaine@Panwar.name.

Friends Helping Friends

The Friends Helping Friends group would like to thank the Mohr Community for their generous support of the Dollar Drive for the American Red Cross. We are proud to say that by working together we raised over \$850 that the American Red Cross will put to use in many ways to support the fire victims down south. Thank you again!!!



Looking ahead ... during the week of December 10th classrooms will be collecting canned food for the Friends Helping Friends Can Food Drive. Each classroom will be asked to bring in a specific item to add to the food baskets that we donate to local families in Pleasanton. Look for the flyer in this Wednesday packet. Thank you for your support - the families that receive these baskets filled with food truly appreciate it!!

10 Best Reasons to Put Books on Your Gift Lists

10. Dr. Seuss is great for all ages.
9. Reading makes you smarter.
8. You can read a book just about anywhere.
7. Reading *The Empty Pot* together can generate a conversation about honesty.
6. Everyone needs a good laugh. Try Shel Silverstein or Jack Prelutsky's poetry.
5. Reading *Owen & Mzee* inspires us to reach out to others.
4. Reading is the most powerful way to increase vocabulary.
3. Reading poetry together is fun! (Read *Casey at the Bat* during baseball season.)
2. Kids caught up in a good book are quiet kids.
1. Cuddling up with a good book is a great way to spend a few special minutes with your child.



Happy Holidays!
Gail Crawford, Reading Specialist

Pleasanton Unified School District E-Connection

This service is in response to parents' requests following emergency situations at specific schools. School and district information will be sent by email to "subscribers" weekly (or more often, in times of crisis) during the school year.

To arrange for more than one address, or to specify school(s) from which you wish to hear, you may enter the subscription process as many times as needed. To subscribe to a school/district list, go to <http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/PublicInformation/EConnectionSignUp.cfm>, and click on Mohr Elementary.

PTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I sincerely hope that all of you are enjoying this wonderful time of the year. This time of sharing, giving and love brings us closer to our friends and families and reflect on how fortunate we are here at Mohr.

The Board would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all of our coordinators and parent volunteers for their tireless efforts in organizing fun, family events and supporting wonderful educational programs here at Mohr. Your continued support of the PTA is always appreciated and you should feel proud of all of your efforts in making Mohr soar! Thank you to **Laura Murdock** and **Paula Bursley** for making Picture Day run smoothly, **Sucheta Patil** for



organizing the Reflections Program and to all the students who participated. A special thanks to **Ann Gushurst** for working tirelessly on the 2007-2008 Student Directory.

Please join us for our first PTA meeting of 2008 on Tuesday, January 29th at 7 p.m. Social and 7:30 p.m. Business in Library.

On behalf of the board, I would like to wish you and your family a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season & a Joyous and Prosperous New Year! See you in 2008!

everychild.onevoice.

-- **Sonia Gupta, PTA President**

SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS CHAIRPERSON NEEDED



Do you enjoy shopping and pricing? Would you like to lead a program that is tremendously fulfilling and also provides an essential service and fundraising opportunity for our school? You may be just the person we need.

We are looking for a new chairperson for our school supply kit program. Our program provides 85% of our classrooms' school supplies. Our children, parents, and teachers are so grateful for this help. **Laura Yozzo** will be happy to mentor the new chair for the coming year. Please help keep this service alive! Please contact Laura Yozzo **as soon as possible** if you are interested in leading this exceptionally beneficial program. (yozzos@aol.com or 931-1776)

Thank you so much!

A Note of Thanks



Picture and retake days went smoothly this year, thanks in a large part to our hard working volunteers, as well as the support and cooperation from Mohr School staff and teachers. A big thank you to our awesome volunteers: **Chandrika Arul, Claudia Bay, Sandra Hodzic, Cathy Nielsen, Valerie Arkin, Cindy Bridges, Heather Babati, Inwha Cho, and Deb Cardella**. We couldn't have done it without you!

Paula Bursley and Laura Murdock
School Pictures Co-chairs

Yearbook News



And the winner for the Yearbook 07-08 cover is.... **Ivanna Tang!**

She is a 4th grader in Mrs. Carrolan's class and was one of over 20 entries that we received. We would like to thank **all** of the kids that participated! They were **all** very beautiful! I would also like to thank **Mr. Kettwig, Heather Babati, Sue Lyon, Karen Vifian** and **Cyndi Snyder** for their help in making the final decision.

Also a reminder to all of the Picture volunteers for Halloween if you haven't already please turn in your CDs to the office. If your child went to Outdoor Ed we **really** need pictures! As of now we have **no** pictures of that **awesome** week!!

Thanks so much!

Heather Ramsay-Macsata, Yearbook Chair

When does Winter Break Start?

Let's check the Calendar Page
on www.mohrpta.org.



PTA Reflections Award Ceremony



On Tuesday, November 13, 2007, Mohr students and their families enjoyed a special evening of art appreciation during the PTA Reflections Award Ceremony. This year 56 student entries reflecting the theme "I can make a difference by..." were showcased in the library in the categories of visual art, literature, photography, musical composition, and film/video production.

Following the viewing of art entries in the library, students were presented with certificates for their participation during an award ceremony hosted by Mohr PTA Reflections Chairperson, **Sucheta Patil**. **Principal Joe Kettwig** spoke about the importance of art education through programs like Reflections and introduced our special guest **Mrs. Angela Johal**, President of Livermore Art Club. Mrs. Johal presented award certificates to all students participating in the Reflections program and spoke a few words to the students.

The following are the talented Mohr students who participated in this year's PTA Reflections program:

Students from Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Grace Tantra, Sunidhi Sridhar, Ethan Jagasia, Vishnu Arul, Medha Gautham, Kiranraj Amuthan, Anika De, Rishab Patgaonkar, Vienna Lee, Julia Thomas, Pranar Jammalamadaka, Amanda Ahn, Surya Venugopal, Nishita Singh, Gaurav Joshi, Jonathan Tao, Danielle Tien, Sharwin Patil, Matthew Lin, Niklas Bengtsson, Harry Cho, Keara Greenan, Joshua Huang, Eknor Kaur, Calvin Lee, Sarah Mirr, Helen Shim, Fiona Thendean, and Ronit Krovidi.

Students from Grades 3-5

Sandhya Kalvacherla, Varsha Ramakrishnan, Shreya Magesh, Maryam Awwal, Sabrina Finke, Maryam Awwal, Adil Abbuthalha, Vincent Tantra, Jiho Choi, Ajit Selvakumaran, Ayushi Singh, Japjot Singh, Michelle Hahn, Ivanna Tang, Richa Tenany, Megan Gupta, and Ria Shroff.

Judging of the entries was performed by qualified experts, **Mrs. Angela Johal** president of Livermore Art Club judged the Visual Arts and Photography entries, **Ms. Tommie Jean Damrel**, San Francisco, hobby writer judged the literature entries, **Mr. Thomas Bowser**, judged the Film/Video Production entries.

Ten Mohr entries were advanced to the Pleasanton PTA Council level of judging for which the ceremony will be held on December 4th. Winners from the Council judging will advance to the PTA Peralta District level of judging.

Winners for this year (2007-2008)

Mohr PTA Reflections program:

Primary K-2

Visual Arts	Surya Venugopal
Photography	Niklas Bengtsson
Literature	Matthew Lin
Music	Medha Gautham
Film/Video Production	Rishab Patgaonkar

Intermediate 3-5

Visual Arts	Sandhya Kalavacherla
Photography	Varsha Ramakrishnan
Literature	Sandhya Kalavacherla
Music	Shreya Magesh
Film/Video Production	Varsha Ramakrishnan

Thanks to **Nancy Krakauer** for her help during the artwork display in the library and **Rekha Joshi** for her help during awards program.

Special Thanks to our Principal **Joe Kettwig**, our special guests **Mrs. Johal**, our Librarian **Mrs. Thomson**, our office staff **Mrs. Sue Lyon** and **Mrs. Karen Vifian** for all their help and support in making the PTA Reflections program such a success.

Sucheta Patil
Reflections Chair

The Eagle Express is generously provided by the PTA. Your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. Please submit articles for the January publication to theeagleexpress@comcast.net by December 17th, 2007. Mohr Elementary is a **Go Green Initiative** school. Please recycle this newsletter when you have finished reading it.

eScrip News

December Updates

Want your holiday shopping to benefit Mohr?

- Register your credit cards on www.escrip.com and use it at participating merchants!
- When making purchases online, go to the www.shopping.escrip.com. Mohr will receive
- 16% of your purchases
- Create a personalized school calendar and share it with your family & friends. Mohr earns 40% for every calendar purchased. Visit www.groups.escrip.com/calendar to learn more!

**Also, look for information about S.H.A.R.E.S Cards for Lucky's shoppers. More details to come...*

What your shopping has done for Mohr in 2007!

eScrip supporters raised **\$6,482**
from January to September!
Target shoppers raised **\$2,886**
from January to September!
Nob Hill/Raley's shoppers raised **\$394**
from January to November!

You can still help Mohr raise more for this year...

- ✓ Register your Safeway club card, credit and/or debit cards if you have not done so yet. Go to www.escrip.com.
- ✓ Make sure Mohr is the organization you are supporting via eScrip. You can support up to 3 organizations. Make the change online or pick up an ADD/CHANGE form from the office.
- ✓ Use the **eScrip Online Mall** when you want to shop online. Check out all the merchants on their website!
- ✓ Make purchases at the participating eScrip merchants* with your registered credit/debit cards and Mohr can receive 2.5%-8% of your purchases.
**(Safeway, PW Markets, Whole Foods, Gene's, Dream Dinners, Macy's, Office Max, Big O Tires, Baja Fresh and Round Tables)*
- ✓ Register your Target VISA card on www.target.com, go to "Take Charge of Education", and designate Mohr as your school.
- ✓ Use your Quality of Life card when you shop at Nob Hill or Raley's. (If you need a card, you can pick one up at the office. Make sure you activate it!)

Thank you for continuing to support Mohr with your shopping!

*Questions? Problems?
Contact Virginia Hwang, Scrip Chair, at 931-1078 or virginia.hwang@gmail.com*

BIRTHDAY MARQUEE

Looking for a way to make your child's birthday a little more special? You can have their name advertised on the birthday marquee at the front of the school. The cost is just \$5.00. All you have to do is fill out the form below and then place it in the gift-wrapped box in the office with a check made out to Mohr PTA. We'll take care of the rest. There are more forms inside the office next to the marquee box. We ask that you turn in the form at least a week before their birthday, no "same day" requests can be honored. Thanks for your support. If you have any questions, contact Susan Lopez at 417-1313.

Mohr School Birthday Marquee Request Form

Please submit your request at least one week in advance of the date you'd like your child's name on the marquee, with payment of \$5.00 per child. Please attach your check made out to Mohr P.T.A. We will make every effort to accommodate all requests as close to the preferred date as possible. Sorry, no same day requests can be honored. Thanks for your support.

Your Name _____ Your Child's Name _____
Grade _____ Date Needed _____ Actual Birthday _____ Phone _____

Pleasanton Partnerships In Education



PLEASANTON
PARTNERSHIPS
in EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

PPIE FOUNDATION STUDENT GRANT APPLICATIONS are now being accepted for the second cycle of funding. Funding is available in amounts of \$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, www.ppie.org or Terry Messick (terrymessick@yahoo.com), or by contacting the PPIE office at mail@ppie.org or 925/846-5620. Application deadline for Cycle #2 is March 18, 2008.

PPIE FOUNDATION EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATION PACKETS may be obtained from the PPIE website, www.ppie.org. This year's deadline for Education Grant applications is April 15, 2008. Education Grants are available to teachers and faculty of PUSD and fund in amounts up to \$2500.

For more information, contact your PPIE Parent Ambassador, Terry Messick (terrymessick@yahoo.com), or contact the PPIE office at mail@ppie.org or 925/846-5620.

Pleasanton Library Presents

“The Justin Hellman Trio”

Jazz Musicians to perform at the Pleasanton Public Library, Sunday, December 9, 2007, 2pm – 3pm.

The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Mountain Mushers

The Nation's Only Hero Sled Dog Educational/Therapy Team. Saturday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Meet retired sled dogs, heroes of Alaska's Denali National Park. Learn about their lives patrolling this vast wilderness, where they run an average of 2,100 miles a year!

Questions? Please call the Children's desk, (925) 931-3400 ext.8.

Pleasanton Is a Community of Character

This month's focus is on *Compassion*.

Parent Education

Amador Valley Adult & Community Education and Pleasanton Unified School District Present the following courses for December:

- 1-2-3 Magic: Discipline for Children Ages 3-9
- Applying the 40 Assets® in Your Family
- Positive Parenting



For more information and to register, call Amador Valley Adult & Community Education at (925) 426-4280, or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted.

Halloween Essay Contest

Congratulations to **Gaurav Joshi** from Mrs. Perkins' second grade class for being one of the winners of the Borders Halloween Essay Contest. Each winner received a certificate and a gift card from Borders.



Great job, Gaurav!

Mini Cheer Camp

Nationally ranked Foothill High Competition Cheer squads will teach dances and cheers to kids grades K-6, Saturday, December 15th, from 8:30am – 2:30pm. Cost is \$45, includes class, certificate, lunch and a t-shirt. Space is limited so register now!



For more information, call or e-mail: Kim DeJoy at 426-2374 or kdejoyfhscheer@comcast.net, or Suzanne Oliveira at 510-226-8832 or suz96GT@aol.com.

Cheer Clinic

Amador Valley High School Competition Cheerleaders are offering a clinic on Saturday, December 15, at Amador Valley High School.



Open to all children grades K-8, the day begins at 10 a.m., with a parent show at 3:30 p.m. that afternoon. Cost is \$45 for pre-registration, or \$50 at the door if spots are available. Price includes lunch and snacks.

To register, contact Laura Monical, 600-8319 or lmonical@comcast.net, or Vikki Mahoney, 484-4805 or vmahoney@smlinsurance.com.