



news and events

THE EAGLE EXPRESS

Robin Sehrt Principal

Office 426 4256

January, 2009

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds your family well in this new year of 2009. The next few months of school are the most critical instructional period of the year. There are relatively few interruptions, except for single days off. The Spring Break will occur in April, so January, February, and March are key. Your child's attendance is vital during this time. Of course illness causes absence, but if it is possible to not have students miss school for extended amounts of time, the result will be better for all. We have a challenge in trying to meet California's very rigorous standards. Having ample time is an important key to our continued success.

During this critical instructional time, it is a joy to watch students grasp new knowledge. As Principal, I get to watch the span of students from grades kindergarten through fifth. January and February is "light-bulb"

time for many of our kindergarten students. Learned concepts start to take hold and they show excitement in everything they do. They read everything, the walls, their books, and just about everything with letters and words on them. It is a very gratifying time for the teachers. In third grade, students start showing that they can be responsible for their own learning. They begin to use previously learned concepts to apply them to a variety of situations. Complex learning tasks start to become easier to approach. In fifth grade, the students show confidence and sophistication. Writing becomes stronger. The ability to bring knowledge from a number of sources to accomplish tasks in the classroom becomes a habit and a life skill.

Again, welcome back to the New Year. Looking forward to a great 2009!

- Robin Sehrt, Principal

Inside this Issue:

Important Dates	2	Multicultural/Heritage Event	3	eScrip	6
80 Mile Club	2	PTA President's Corner	4	Birthday Marquee	6
Six Flags Read to Succeed	2	Pleasanton PTA Council	4	PPIE Grants	7
Plastic Bag Recycling	2	Bingo Night	4	No-Text Law Effective January 1	7
Vice Principal's Message	3	PTA Tradition of Advocacy	5	Gate Parent to Parent Meetings	7
Cafeteria News	3	School Finance Quiz	5		

RESPECT
HONOR
SELF-DISCIPLINE
STABILITY
INTEGRITY

COMPASSION



2000 - 2004



2005

80 Mile Club Kids Walk Across America



The Mohr Elementary walking program is off to another fantastic start with over 100 students and staff members participating in the club. Our goal is for each member to walk or jog 80 miles between November 1st and April 30th.

In addition, the entire club is attempting to accumulate enough miles to symbolically walk across America ... and back! Club members earn certificates, toe tokens and medals for reaching the different milestones, (20, 40, 60, 80) as well as improving their physical and mental health. Not only is walking a safe aerobic exercise for virtually everyone, but walking is also a great way to spend time with your family, away from the distractions of television and video games. Remember, it only takes about 20 minutes, without stopping, for the average person to walk 1 mile. So, get out of the house and treat yourself to some fresh air and quality time with your son or daughter. The staff of Mohr Elementary takes pride in educating every student's mind and body.

Mr. Maz

Please, never smoke!

SIX FLAGS READ TO SUCCEED



For the second year, Mohr Elementary is participating in the six hour reading club through Six Flags theme parks.

Each K-5 child who completes six hours of recreational reading and turns in a completed Student Keeping Track Form to his or her teacher before Thursday, February 12, 2009 will each earn a ticket good for one free admission valid at participating Six Flags theme parks. Teachers will be sending home forms with information soon!

For more details, see Mrs. Thomson in the library. Have fun reading!

Community of Character

This month's focus is on **Self-Discipline**.

"Although the world is very full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it."

-- Helen Keller

Important Dates

Parent Communication Council, 9:00 – 10:30 am, Bernal Room, PUSD	January 8
Multicultural & Heritage Event Planning mtg. 8:15am in the library	January 9
Multicultural & Heritage Event program rehearsal	January 12
FAME Classroom Presentations	January 15 & 22
NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday	January 19
PTA Executive Board Meeting, 12:30pm in 11B	January 20
Kindergarten Articulation Day – all KG on AM schedule	January 23
Eagle Express Articles Due	January 26
PTA Meeting-7:00 pm Social, 7:30 pm Business	January 27
Bingo Night	February 6
The next issue of the Eagle Express will be distributed February 4	

Plastic Bag/Capri Sun Pouch Recycling

Plastic shopping bags will continue to be collected for recycling through March. Already we have saved and earned money for TEN BAGS of bags - \$50 that is "free" money.



We also are collecting empty Capri Sun juice pouches, for which we earn 2¢ each. All items can be surrendered outside K2. Thanks for recycling!

Mrs. Finney

Vice Principal's Message

Welcome back. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and the New Year has gotten off to a great start for you and your family.

One of the components of the Pleasanton Unified School District's Strategic Plan is "Personal Development". As Mohr's representative to the Personal Development Committee, I have the privilege of working with the representatives from the other schools to promote the personal development of students and staff. Here are some of the main features of Mohr's Personal Development plan.



This year we will continue using Tribes Agreements, I messages, and Tribes Tickets to create a climate of respect and responsibility. Flag Salutes, which bring the whole school together, will be used to recognize students and staff for demonstrating the Character Traits. Other programs and clubs include: Conflict Managers, Leadership Club, Friends Helping Friends, Safety Valets, Critter Club, and Reading Buddies. One of the main themes of this year's Personal Development plan is to empower students by helping them understand, learn, and internalize ways of being and interacting in order to create the most positive school climate possible at Mohr.

Creating a positive and safe school environment so students can learn is our highest priority. One of our main goals this year is to not only make sure that students know the school rules, but also understand the purpose for the rules. We feel strongly that if students understand how the rules help to keep them safe, and promote a positive environment, the chances are greater that they will adhere to the rules even when adults are not watching.

In grades 3-5 students are eligible to participate in the Conflict Managers program. Each Conflict Manager is trained in strategies to help their peers resolve conflict more peacefully. The goal of the program is not just to resolve problems for the students with whom they interact, but to also help students learn how to resolve conflicts on their own.

Creating stronger connections at schools is another major objective of the plan. For example, the Reading Buddies program gives adults the opportunity to show upper grade students how to work with younger students. It then provides the opportunity for upper grade students to make connections with their younger buddies. The Friends Helping Friends Club focuses on service learning, which gives students opportunities to connect with the larger community by collecting donations that go to benefit local non-profit organizations and homeless shelters.

At Mohr we believe that character education and personal development are intricately tied with student learning and academic achievement. We focus on the whole child, because we know that students who feel safe and connected to their school will be more engaged in learning, and ultimately much more successful than students who feel threatened, unsafe, or disconnected from the school community.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at rgorton@pleasanton.k12.ca.us or 426-4256 ext. 2152.

- Rich Gorton, Vice Principal

Child Nutrition Services News



January's menu will include a Quizno's Day featuring their popular "Sammie" Sonoma Turkey Flatbread Sandwich made on soft flat bread. The cost of the Sammie's Lunch will be \$3.25 which includes unlimited salad bar, 100% juice, fruit and choice of milk.

Another new menu item will be Mandarin Orange Chicken with rice and vegetables. January's Harvest of the Month will feature Navel Oranges or oven baked crinkle-cut Sweet Potato fries every Wednesday.

Frank Castro
Child Nutrition Services
Pleasanton USD

Mohr's Annual Multicultural Event Needs You!

"Famous Faces and Places From Around the World!"

The Mohr Multicultural Event takes place on March 18th – 20th. We need volunteers to help staff booths of different cultures and to help with the decorating. We also need volunteers who have heritage from the following areas or knowledge of these areas:



Africa! Great Britain! Japan! Native Americans! Australia! Let's cover all the continents so our children can learn more about their world!

If you and/or your child are interested in being a part of this year's Multicultural Event, please contact **Elaine Marchant Panwar** at: Elaine.marchant@comcast.net or phone: 734-8428.

PTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A Very Happy New Year to Everybody!

As amazing as it sounds, as we enter the second half of this school year, the PTA is already beginning to plan for next year. Each year Mohr PTA loses essential volunteers as their youngest children move up to middle school to continue their education journey.

So, Mohr parents, will next year be the year **YOU** step forward to take on a leadership role in your PTA? I will be spotlighting opportunities in the next few newsletters, but in the meantime, please visit www.mohrpta.org and click on "About Mohr PTA" to see the PTA positions and descriptions of duties. Explore the volunteer activity or activities that interest you. Please contact me at elimesand@comcast.net with any questions.

Another Fun Family Event brought to you by Mohr PTA:

At the beginning of next month, please plan to join us for a Mohr family tradition: **Bingo Night!** Many thanks to Bingo

Chairs **Tenne Rogers** and **Randie Hill** who have been hard at work planning another fun evening of B-I-N-G-O for our families.

**PTA Meeting Update:**

At our last general meeting the membership agreed to release the following funds: **Classroom Support (\$10,000)**, **Technology (\$5,000)** and **Yearbook (\$10,000)**.

Your continued support of the PTA throughout the end of the school year is essential to making Mohr soar. Please plan to join us for our **first PTA meeting of 2009 on Tuesday, January 27th** at 7 p.m. Social, 7:30 p.m. Business in the Library.

everychild.onevoice.

-- **Beth Limesand, PTA President**

Pleasanton PTA Council Seeking Nominations

Pleasanton Council

everychild.onevoice.®

The nominating committee will be working diligently in finding candidates for the 2009-10 Pleasanton PTA Council Executive Board. There is no obligation on the part of the individual being nominated (or doing the nominating)! We're really just trying to increase participation from all our schools.

Eligibility: To be eligible for any elected council office, a person shall be a member of a local association within the boundaries of the council, whose dues have been paid and who has been a member for at least 30 days previous. All elected officers are expected to attend monthly Board meetings and Council Association meetings.

Go to www.mohrpta.org/whatsnew.htm to download the nominating form, as well as view the eligibility requirements and a summary of the duties of the Council Board positions.

All forms must be back to no later than January 30th, 2009. One can email, drop off or mail the form to the address on the nominating form.

Thanks for all your help in this and if you have any questions contact **Felicia Goldhawk, Pleasanton PTA Council Parliamentarian** at fgoldhawk@comcast.net or 461-1640.

Bingo Night Is Coming!

Hey Mohr families! Mark your calendars now so you don't miss Bingo Night. All the fun is set for Friday, February 6th.



Food sales start at 6:30pm and Bingo begins at 7:00. Bring the whole family out to try your luck at Bingo or maybe win a Raffle Prize! We're sure to have a great time with friends and family! It's a perfect combination of Food, Fun & Prizes! Please join us if you can.

If you would like to volunteer to work the event, please contact **Randie Hill** 417-1155.

Mohr PTA Website



For all the Mohr news, calendar events, lunch menu and other useful information, including this newsletter online, check out our PTA website at www.mohrpta.org.

Click on "**What's New**" to see the current events. Subscribe to receive email updates and keep informed on all the latest!

PTA: A Tradition of Advocacy



PTA's participation in the School Finance Project continues more than a century of advocacy on behalf of children.

One million members across the state and our team of volunteer lobbyists in the Capitol halls each speak for all children with one voice.

California State PTA's voice is the loudest in Sacramento fighting to retain class size reduction, which we helped to bring about. In recent years, PTA volunteers launched grassroots efforts to defeat the voucher initiative and to lower the threshold to 55% to pass school bond initiatives.

But working for better school funding is only one aspect of PTA advocacy for children.

Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring arts back into the schools with the "SMARTS – Bring Back the Arts" campaign.

In the 1990s, California State PTA developed a "Kids At Risk" legislation agenda and joined in the Red Ribbon campaign against the use of alcohol and other drugs. PTA spoke up for HIV/AIDS education when the subject was still largely taboo, and cosponsored the bicycle safety helmet law.

Many of the programs we take for granted today had their roots in PTA activism.

- ◆ The school lunch program legislated in 1925 began as PTA "Penny Kitchens."
- ◆ The Juvenile Justice System was created in 1941 with heavy lobbying by PTA.
- ◆ The California Congress of Mothers, as PTA was called then, was instrumental in bringing kindergarten to public schools in 1913.
- ◆ Issuing birth certificates was haphazard until 1915, when PTA pressed for a law requiring births be registered within 36 hours and deleting the terms "legitimate" or "illegitimate" from the birth certificate.

Pursuing the PTA objective "to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children" has always been a vital part of the PTA mission. A PTA Legislation Platform that guides all PTA action on legislation is adopted biennially by delegates to the California State PTA Convention.

California School Finance Quiz

1. **Revenue from California's State Lottery accounts for 15 percent of the average school's revenue.**
True or False?
2. **Staffing expenses account for about 60 percent of a district's annual costs.**
True or False?
3. **The per-student dollars allocated for 90 percent of California districts fall between:**
A) \$4,527 - \$9,548
B) \$6,678 - \$11,011
C) \$7,117 - \$12,154
4. **California spends more per child than other large states.**
True or False?
5. **California has a lower student to teacher ratio than other comparable states.**
True or False?
6. **School districts are free to spend their money as they choose, without any external accountability.**
True or False?
7. **Categorical aid is:**
A) Special credentials for teachers
B) The state's adopted math program
C) State or federal funding that is restricted for narrowly- defined purposes

answers

1. **False.** Lottery funds contribute, on the average, less than 2 percent of a school's income, generating about \$125 per student. A small portion of these funds is earmarked specifically for instructional materials.
2. **False.** Personnel costs dominate district expenditures, averaging 85 percent of the district budget.
3. **B.** \$6,678 - \$11,011
4. **False.** When adjusted for cost of living differences, Texas spends 12 percent more, Florida spends 18 percent more, New York spends 75 percent more and the rest of the country spends 30 percent more than California.
5. **False.** California averages 21.4 students per teacher; New York 13.8; Texas 14.9; Florida 18; all other states 15.6.
6. **False.** In addition to the legally required independent audits of district finances, County Offices of Education (COE) review and approve school budgets three times a year, and can impose sanctions and/or intervene to ensure fiscal responsibility.
7. **C.** State or federal funding that is restricted for narrowly-defined purposes

— California School Boards Association

eScrip News

January Reminders...

YOUR SHOPPING can benefit Mohr when you register your credit cards or debit cards at www.escrip.com, and visit the list of participating merchants! You can also shop online via **ESCRIP ONLINE MALL** when you log in to the same web site.

TARGET SHOPPERS: If you have a target credit card, make sure you go to www.target.com to register your card and designate Mohr as your school. Then a percentage of all your purchases will benefit Mohr.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO HELP MOHR RAISE MORE AT NO COST TO YOU!

NOB HILL SHOPPERS:

If you have never picked up a Quality Life Card, they are now available in the office. Before using it at Nob Hill/Raley's, go online to activate the card. Then each time you shop there, make sure you show the cashier your card!

SAFEWAY SHOPPERS:

1. You have all been renewed for the 2008-09 school year!
2. If you would like to support Mohr with your Safeway purchases but misplaced your Safeway Club Card, just call Safeway at 1-877-723-3929. Then log on to www.escrip.com and register your card!

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

The Eagle Express is generously provided by the PTA. Your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. Please submit articles for the February publication to theeagleexpress@comcast.net by January 26th, 2009. All articles are subject to approval, and may be edited for space or content. Mohr Elementary is a **Go Green Initiative** school. Please recycle this newsletter when you have finished reading it.

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 Kati and Joshua Higgins at 596-0363.

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



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 10, 2009.

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 21, 2009. 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.

Invitation to GATE Parents



GATE Parent-to-Parent meetings are open to all GATE parents in the District. Meetings are held on the following Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Harvest Park Middle School library. For additional information, email Lynn Gatehouse at lgatehouse@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

January 8: Visual-Spatial Learners/Organizational Challenges

February 5: Talent Searches/Summer Camps & Programs

March 5: Social Emotional Needs of Gifted

April 2: Advocacy

May 7: Sharing Lessons Learned/Evaluation of Series

No-text Law In Effect January 1

DMV Tells Drivers to Keep Their Eyes on the Road or Pay a Fine

In order to prevent text-messaging while driving and the collisions which could occur as a result, a new law went into effect on January 1, 2009.



SB28 prohibits a person using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send or read text-based messages while operating a motor vehicle. This law specifically addresses, but is not limited to, instant messages and all forms of e-mail based correspondence.

Similar to its no-cell phone counterpart, drivers are subject to \$20 fee for the first offense, and \$50 for each subsequent offense. However, unlike SB33 which focuses on teens and SB1613 which allows cell phone usage accompanied by a headset for adults, SB28 affects *all drivers*. No points will be shown on DMV records for this violation, but penalty assessments will be added, which could more than triple the base fine amount.

This law does not apply to any passengers in motor vehicles and exemptions apply in emergency situations and for emergency service professionals while operating an authorized emergency vehicle.

To many of us, the text-messaging function on our cell phones has become even more convenient than making or receiving an actual phone call. In situations where silence is required, such as a meeting, the office, a conference or the library, you can set your phone to silent mode and continue to be connected to the outside world. Conversely, in situations where there's too much noise such as concerts, parties or movies, the short, quick messages save time, don't require a verbal conversation and can effectively be used to entertain or simply tell a friend your whereabouts. However, text-messaging can go from being a convenient and useful tool, to a dangerous distraction in seconds once you get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle.

According to the Transport Research Laboratory, the reaction time of people driving while text-messaging is 35 percent slower, while reaction times were only 12 percent slower for drunk drivers and 21 percent slower for those who smoke marijuana. Looking away for one second is enough time for a cyclist or child to end up in front of your vehicle, or for another driver to quickly veer into your lane.

To get all the "buzz" on the new cellular phone and text laws, check out the California DMV Web site www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/index.htm.