



news and events

# THE EAGLE EXPRESS

Robin Sehrt Principal

Office 426 4256

April, 2009

## Principal's Message

### Benefits of a Well-Rounded Program

What elements make a good school? There are many approaches that a school can follow in building a quality program for students. We hear of schools that focus on one set of aspects such as "Back to Basics", or "Child-Centered", or many others. All have their positive aspects that cause people to believe in their approach to teaching and learning. Here at Mohr we offer a well-rounded program that includes:

- Small class sizes to meet the individual needs of every child
- A strong literacy focus on decoding and fluency, as well as higher level comprehension strategies
- Reading interventions and reading specialist support to give each child a boost in their reading skills
- Counselors that provide social and emotional support for our students
- Library specialists that instill the love of reading and teach students about media and research
- Technology specialists that support curriculum and instruction using technology in the classroom
- Highly qualified teachers, that keep up on the cutting edge, research-based curriculum and instruction strategies



- A strings and band program that consistently has the highest participation rate of all the Pleasanton elementary schools
- A Community of Character that develops our students into thoughtful citizens of the world

At Mohr, I am proud of the way that we work together to offer such a well-rounded program for all of our students. Unfortunately with the current state of the budget, some of these integral aspects of our balanced program, stated above, are in jeopardy. On March 5, the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees voted to place a parcel tax measure on the June 2 ballot. The community will have the opportunity to decide whether to support a parcel tax that would provide a stable, on-going funding source for the next four years for critical programs such as class size reduction, reading and math support, music instruction, and clean and safe schools.

If you would like more information, please visit the District web site at [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us).

*- Robin Sehrt, Principal*

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☆ STAR Testing is Coming! ☆

**Test date window: April 28-May 12** – *Attendance is important! Please reschedule dentist/doctor appointments.*

It is that time of the year again when we start California State Testing. The STAR testing is one of the more important assessments that happen throughout the year. Data from these tests determine a school's API score. These assessments not only impact our school's score, but also give us valuable information towards providing for the educational needs for your child.

Here are a few things that you can do at home to help your child have his/her best chance to do well on these assessments:

1. **A good night's rest** – The assessments can be lengthy and must be completed in one sitting. They range from 20 minutes to up to 85 minutes depending upon grade. A child that is well rested will have the energy to sit and focus for these extended times.
2. **Healthy Breakfast** – A good healthy breakfast and nutrition in the morning helps the brain operate more smoothly.
3. **Routine** – Start your child on a routine of getting to bed at the same time, and waking up at the same time. Routines help support what happens during the day because the body and mind become familiar with what is coming next. It reduces the amount of mental adjustments children need to make.
4. **Encouragement** – Encourage your child to focus and try their best. Explain the importance of this and why they should try their best.

**Summer School Update**



Registration forms for the 2009 Summer School session are now available (online and at school sites). There are some program changes this year. Summer school at all levels will be held Monday through Thursday, with no school on Friday. Elementary and middle school programs begin June 22 and end July 16, meeting four hours a day, four days per week. Summer School for High School begins June 22 and ends July 30, Monday through Thursday only.

To download an application, please visit [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/EducationalServices/SummerSchool/index.cfm](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/EducationalServices/SummerSchool/index.cfm), or for more information, please call the Summer School hotline at (925) 463-1104.

**Important Dates**

Parent Communication Council, 9:00 – 10:30 am, Bernal Room, PUSD		April 2
<b>NO SCHOOL – Spring Break</b>		<b>April 10-17</b>
PTA Executive Board Meeting, 12:30 pm in 11B		April 20
Earth Day		April 22
E-Faire		TBA
Friday Ice Cream Sales Resume		April 24
Eagle Express Articles Due		April 27
PTA Meeting-7:00 pm Social, 7:30 pm Business – LIBRARY		April 28
STAR Testing		April 28-May 12
California State PTA Convention – Long Beach		April 30-May 3
The next issue of the Eagle Express will be distributed May 6		

**Congratulations!**

Mohr is very pleased to announce that 5th grader **Varsha Ramakrishnan**, in Mrs. Kumar's class, made it to the Finals of the San Francisco Chronicle Bee, the Winner of which goes on to the National Scripps Spelling Bee held in Washington DC.



Initially she won the School Bee for all the 4th and 5th graders in January, and was selected to represent the school district in the Regionals.. There she competed with other 4th to 8th graders in the Regionals (about 300 school kids). Of these kids, she was then selected in the top 50 to compete in the Finals. There she made it to the 4th round and placed around the top 25 spellers in the Bay Area among all 4th to 8th graders.

The level of competition was very high and even in the early rounds, they had to spell words such as "sorghum", "conniption", "liquefaction", "nectarivorous" and "teetotum". The winning word was "Boucharde." Mohr is extremely proud of Varsha's accomplishment!

## Vice Principal's Message



Each school in the Pleasanton Unified School District was required to update its Comprehensive School Safety Plan by March 1st. While the Comprehensive School Safety Plan does include the necessary planning and preparation for emergencies and disaster situations, its scope is actually much wider. It also entails using data to identify strategies for reducing and eliminating factors within the school environment that cause any individual to feel unsafe. Such factors could stem from a number of sources including teasing, bullying, harassment, abuse, etc.

The updated plan documents the many programs, policies, and procedures that have been put into place to make Mohr safe for students and staff. It also provides a future plan to ensure that the school environment remains safe, and therefore conducive to learning. Research clearly shows that in schools where students feel safe, learning and achievement are greatly improved.

The update to the plan was recently approved by the district's Special Projects Coordinator, and the binder is available in the office for anyone who would like to see it.

Some key action steps that have been a part of the update to this year's plan include:

- Integration of the 40 Assets into the Character Education program
- The development of a step-by-step plan for a major evacuation
- Taking inventory and restocking emergency supplies for classrooms and the disaster shed
- Studying pedestrian and traffic patterns to ensure greater safety
- Reviewing district policies with students and staff to raise awareness about teasing, bullying (including cyberbullying), and sexual harassment

The Mohr Safety Committee, which is made up of parents and staff members, has been instrumental in the development of the School Safety Plan. Please contact me if you have any questions, or you would like to become involved with the Safety Committee. I can be reached at [rgorton@pleasanton.k12.ca.us](mailto:rgorton@pleasanton.k12.ca.us) or 426-4256 ext. 2152.

~~ Rich Gorton

## Mohr Is Going Paperless!



The era of fishing crumpled Wednesday packets out of your child's backpack is almost over! Sign up to receive Mohr news by email. Go to [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us), select Mohr School from the drop-down menu, and follow directions to sign up. Enroll now to receive information about news and events beginning Fall, 2009.

## What's New in Science

A special thank you goes to the parents and students that helped with the Mohr Science Fair Booth "Test Your Eco-Intelligence" game at the Fairgrounds on March 17<sup>th</sup>.



Don't worry - if you missed your chance to play we will have the game working again at our own Mohr Earth Day Celebration. Hurray to those club members who stuck with it to finish our game board. Your dedication is outstanding.

The Eco-Science Club had also collected enough clay pots to begin our "Living Gift" to some seniors in our community. The goal is to have the project ready for Earth Day. Thanks also to **Ms. Arellano** for all of her hard work in the lab....you rock.

A donation of lab supplies has come our way thanks to the generosity of **Telik Inc (Mr. Macsata)**. We appreciate you thinking of us and the science lab.

As you can see we have a lot to be thankful for and everyone who had helped is so greatly appreciated.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day. Once again we will have activities planned to celebrate and show our concern and respect for our planet and environment. From the 3 R's to the history of Earth Day and fun ways to learn more about our resources, we will present, educate and have a great Earth Day. Later that week the district will have the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual E-Faire. More detailed info will follow.

Each grade level is beginning a new content strand in the science lab (the last of 3 each year). While some will investigate the life cycles of some of our own lab pets, others will focus on the sun and moon connections to Earth. Physics and Chemistry will be the focus for some as we all take a closer look at the science of our planet, our resources, the land and all that thrives here. I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming Spring Break!

Cheers,

**Ms. Conley, Science Specialist**

## Budget FAQs

During the current budget situation, PUSD will be posting Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the budget on our website. Go to [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us) and navigate to Business Services, Budget Info.



For additional questions or suggestions, email [publicinfo@pleasanton.k12.ca.us](mailto:publicinfo@pleasanton.k12.ca.us).

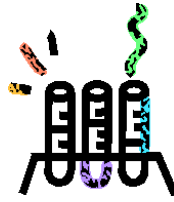
# Mohr's Science Fair ROCKS!!!

The 2009 Mohr School Science Fair was a huge success. Over 170 projects were completed and 200 students participated! There were experiments about solar energy, acids and base, motion and planets to just name a few. Many visitors commented about the originality and student directed style of the projects. It was an enjoyable time for not only the students but the many parent and community volunteers.

There are many people that helped make this big event a success. First off, I would like to thank some of the fifth graders in the Leadership Club who participated in the Kick-Off assembly. They are: *Hannah Scarborough, Anunuddah Murthy, Robin Singh, Yash Prakash, Stacey Tevelev, Gavin O'Mallery, Simon Macapaga, Jenny Sin, Viral Shukla, and Manasa Rapuru.* There were many parents who helped in a variety of ways such as: driving projects to and from the fairgrounds; helping during the event on Monday at our site; working at the fairgrounds; preparing paperwork and materials for the day, and financially supporting the Science Fair. I would like to thank the many volunteers: *Sarada Orugantl, Wil Joseph, Funda Erden, Praveen Hari, Laura Murdock, Erin Dixon, Kathleen and Gary Spears, Kavita Bansal, Dimple Toor, Sarika Jain, Joyce Hong, Beth Limesand, Sheela Vats, Cathy and Ted Rigl, Letty Cruz, Kevin Gallagher, Nan Zhou, Qiang Sun, Emily Corbishley, Cathy Nielson, Wei Soriero, Elaine Panwar, Mindy Mahoney, Clavel Tambunting, and Paul Tao.* If I have left off any names I apologize! There are two parents who were tremendous help this year. I would like to thank *Beth Gallagher* and *Laurie Yoon-Park.* They helped recruit volunteers and worked both at the fairgrounds and during the Monday event at Mohr. Their support was fantastic and I appreciate all of their time

and willingness to just do things! I would also like to thank the PTA for sponsoring this event for our students.

On Monday there were many interviewers that came to Mohr School to talk with the young scientists. They volunteered their time. Some were parents from our school and others were community members from companies around the Tri-Valley area. Thank you to the following individuals who came to be interviewers: *Ellen Cummings, Ted Malone, Salustra Urbin, Anisha Gujral, Zeever Baqar, Mark Hagerty, Neil Bellenics, Jim Scanlin, Rich Uriarte, Arturo Perez, Valerie Arkin, Brad Wong, Tom Boster, Vanaja Maganty, Jim Hann, Ron Andre Jr., and Sally Lagomarsino.*



Lastly, I would like to thank the many teachers and staff who stepped in whenever their help was needed. This is what makes our school so outstanding!!!! Thank you to *Karen Vifian, Sue Lyon* and *Joe Robles* for the help and assistance. Thank you to *Mr. Gorton* and *Mrs. Sehart* for their support. A wonderful round of applause goes to *Mrs. Conley* for organizing the Mohr booth at the fairgrounds and all of her work throughout the event. The science fair committee of teachers continues to be a group of dedicated teachers and so we say thank you to *Mrs. Reding, Mrs. Takhar* and *Mrs. Kumar.*

Thank you to all of the students who put such great effort into the projects and displays that were shared. Science truly does ROCK!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,  
*Linda Stanford, Science Fair Chairperson*



## MOVING???

If you are definitely moving, or will possibly be moving before the start of school in August, please let us know.

With our near-capacity enrollment in many grades, such information in advance is vital to our planning process. If this applies to you, please fill out the following and return to the school office:

NAME OF STUDENT(S): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WILL NOT be attending Mohr next school year.  
MAY NOT be attending Mohr next school year.

## The 2009 Mohr Multicultural/Heritage Event Celebrates Success!

From March 16<sup>th</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup> Mohr celebrated its annual Multicultural/Heritage Event that is held not only to celebrate our cultural diversity, but also to expand our understanding of places around the world. Each morning, the children listened to music from around the world and guessed from which country the music originated. On Wednesday and Thursday, classes visited 14 different country booths that highlighted “Famous Faces and Places” throughout the world. Friday morning and evening, Mohr students from all different heritages performed cultural dances and skits. After the evening show, the audience tasted samples of international cuisine. We are fortunate at Mohr to have a dedicated group of volunteers who spend numerous hours preparing for and implementing this fantastic event. We wish to acknowledge the following peoples’ contribution, dedication, and support:



**Performance Volunteers: Kindergarten:** Kavita Bansal; **Sweden:** Darcy Van Valkenburgh and Marianne Lilja; **Pakistan:** Fauzia Khan; **Turkey:** Fatih Erdin; **Korea:** Soojin Jung; **Mexico:** Maria Espinoza-Narayan, Laura Franklin, Karen Pfeiffer, Karla Esquivel; **Peru:** Malena Navarate; **China:** Haihong Liao, Shudan Wang, Vivan (Hongyan) Tu; **India:** Chandrika Arul and Viji Venugopal; **USA:** Jason Gaimo.

**Other Special Volunteers: Roberta Emerson,** Booklet Editor and Program Brochure Writer; **Praveen and Pavithra Hari,** Food Samples Coordinators; **Vyji Kalavacherla,** Decorations Coordinator.

Other wonderful decorations and **all-around helpers:** Paula Bursely, Laura Murdock, Radhika Sirupa, Jyoti Kumbagowdanna, Jyoti Appalla, Radha Bachina, Indira Viji Thangavelu, Kit Voit, Paula Bursely, Arundhati Mitra-De, Laurie Park. **Food contributors:** Marianne Lilja, Claudia Loriato, Clavel Tambunting, Arundhati Mitra-De, Radha Bachina, Hetal Gaimo, Jeong Yang, Fauzia Khan, Claudia Sperling, Uzma Kemal, Elaine Panwar, Jennifer Zreik, Gina Burke, Bertha D. Cerna, Karen Pfeiffer, Deb Cardella, Shudan Wang, Qi Meng, Haijie Xiao.

Staff at Mohr: **We appreciate the support of Mohr staff, especially Sue Lyon, Karen Vifian (Music in the Morning genius!), Mrs. Robin Sehr, Mr. Joe Robles & Lucy, Mrs. Muldoon (USA booth info), and all the teachers.**

Last but not least, a special thanks goes to **Hetal Gaimo, the Performance Coordinator,** and to **Elaine Marchant Panwar, Booth and Event Chair,** who volunteered countless hours in hopes that this event brings our children and our families closer together as a community.

### THANK YOU!!!

**Booth Volunteers: Brazil:** Claudia Loriato; **China:** Shudan Wang, Yan Zhou, Henry Li, Kit Voit, Yumei Wu, Haihong Liao; **Denmark:** Marianne Lilja, Aruna Pandurangi; **Germany:** Claudia Sperling, Julia Tamm; **India:** Ganga subramaniam, Arundhati Mitra-De, Viji Venugopal, Anuradha koyyada, Jyothi, Radha Bachina, Taruna Birla, Chandrika Arul; **Mexico:** Karla Esquivel, Karen Pfeiffer, Maria Espinoza-Narayan; **Pakistan:** Fauzia Khan, Aisha Iqbal, Radha Bachina, Janvi Padture, Uzma Kemal, Shadab Khawaja; **Russia:** Inna Lipkind, Galina Stoll, Olga Spasibenko, **South Korea:** Seung Yeon Lee, Seong Kyoung Lee, Hye Won Choo, Joyce Hong, Soojin Jung, Laurie Park, Lauren Yu; **Sweden:** Darcy Van Valkenburgh; **Turkey:** Fatih & Funda Erdin; **Ukraine:** Svitlana Korshak, Cheryl Lawer; **United Kingdom:** Fauzia Khan, Helen Totten, Gill Short, Jacqui Galley, Arundhati Mitra-De, Vyji Kalavacherla **USA:** Kim Koste, Paula Bursley, Laura Murdock, Pam Jetter, Radha Bachina, Sima Misra, Janhavi Padture.

### Pleasanton USD E-Connection

: This service is in response to parents' requests following emergency situations at specific schools. School and district information will be sent 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 the Mohr Elementary link.

## PTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Measure G**

At the March 24<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting, the Mohr PTA voted to endorse Measure G. Measure G is the school funding measure that will appear on the June 2, 2009 ballot.

Measure G reads: "To preserve educational quality and protect Pleasanton schools from severe state budget cuts, keep class sizes small, maintain essential reading and math support programs, libraries, counselors, technology instruction, music, and safe, clean schools with no proceeds used for administrators' salaries, shall the Pleasanton Unified School District be authorized to levy an annual \$233 parcel tax for four years, with guaranteed audits, senior and disabled exemptions, an independent citizens' oversight committee and all funds benefitting our Pleasanton students?"

This parcel tax was proposed to help mitigate the damage that will result from cutting almost \$10 million from the district's budget. Lay-off notices have been given out to 148 credentialed teachers in the district, including 17 here at Mohr, letting them know that there won't be a job for them next year. Supervisory and custodial personnel will be cut, reducing the oversight and safety of our campuses. The K-3 class sizes and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Math and English class sizes will increase by 50%, from 20 students to 30 students per classroom. The reading specialists, the counselors, the library staff and technology specialists will be drastically reduced, and the instrumental music instruction for elementary will be completely cut. Measure G will provide funding to continue the above programs and services. The graph above shows what the money collected would pay for.

At \$233 per parcel per year for 4 years, Measure G is an affordable means of investing in a quality education for our students and will support the exemplary public schools that contribute to our high and stable property values.

Measure G funds are strictly for the benefit of Pleasanton students. No proceeds from Measure G will be used for administrator salaries. The measure ensures accountability through an independent citizens' oversight committee which will monitor the expenditures of Measure G funds and provide quarterly reports. An annual independent audit will also be conducted. Senior citizens, 65 or older, and SSI disability recipients are eligible for an optional exemption from the parcel tax.

Sixty percent of the households in Pleasanton do not have children in any of our schools. Many just don't understand why they should vote to increase their property taxes to pay for "someone else's kids" to retain their right to a first class education. But these are not just someone else's kids, they are the future. We have to ask ourselves who will be our doctors, teachers, lawyers and leaders in the years to come? Will we wish we'd chosen to act to sustain the quality of education they will have had? If at least 67% of voters do not vote \*YES\* on the parcel tax in June, there goes our choice. For more information about the parcel tax initiative, visit [www.savepleasantonschools.org](http://www.savepleasantonschools.org).

**So, What Does It Mean that Mohr PTA "Endorses" Measure G?**

Mohr PTA, as an organization, has voted in favor of passing the parcel tax. As a supporter, Mohr PTA will advocate for the measure, and will work to get information out to voters about the measure and why we believe it should pass.

**What It Does Not Mean**

Mohr PTA did NOT vote to donate money from the organization's funds to the campaign. While we certainly encourage everyone to get involved, volunteer, and yes, DONATE to the campaign, we did not vote to take money from Mohr to give to Save Pleasanton Schools. We did not feel

that money donated for the benefit of the students and the school should be used for another purpose without permission from the people who donated it in the first place. Fifteen people attended the last week's PTA meeting, and while according to our Bylaws, that is a large enough group to vote on budget changes, it is in no way a representative number of the PTA members at Mohr who should have a say in such an important matter. So please be assured that Mohr PTA funds will continue to be used for the benefit of Mohr Elementary.

**Thank You**

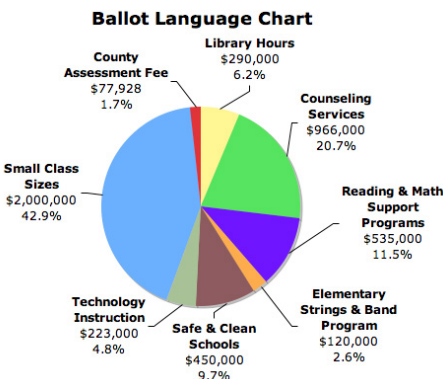
I'd like to thank our Science Fair Chairpersons, *Laurie Yoon-Park* and *Beth Gallagher*, and Teacher Liaisons *Linda Stanford* and *Mikki Conley* for all their hard work organizing volunteers and transportation for the Science Fair. What amazing scientists we have here at Mohr!

**PTA Meeting Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 pm**

Please join us for the April PTA meeting. We will be holding the election for the 2009-10 PTA Executive Board.

*everychild.onevoice.*

-- *Beth Limesand, PTA President*



## Spring Family Dance

**Mohr Families - Save the Date! May 8<sup>th</sup> - For our Spring Family Fun Event!**



Mohr PTA is proud to sponsor the first ever Mohr Family Dance. Please mark your calendars now for Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30pm. We are going to have a great time dancing and playing games with our kids. You can boogie and have dessert too! Look for more details in the coming weeks. Call Randie Hill if you would like to be on the decorating team (925) 417-1155.

## Friday Ice Cream Sales Will Return!!!!



Ice cream sales will start up again on Friday, April 24, the week we return from Spring Break. It will be sold in the back playground and in a new location in the area between the office and the library (rather than by the flagpole) after school for 30 minutes. The price is still \$1 per ice cream.

If you are interested in helping with the ice cream sales, please contact Chairperson **Kim Koste** at [kimkoste@gmail.com](mailto:kimkoste@gmail.com)

## 2009-2010 Open Committee Chair Positions:

The PTA needs to fill Chair positions for the following committees for the 2009-10 school year.



- Field Day
- Ice Cream Sales
- Registration Day
- School Historian
- Gift Wrap
- Marquee
- Science Fair
- Website
- Hospitality
- Newsletter

Each year the PTA loses valuable volunteers as their youngest children progress to Middle School. It's up to the next group of parents to step up and lead! The PTA cannot provide the above wonderful programs and services unless we have Chairpersons in place to run them.

**Here's your chance to get involved! Co-Chairs are welcome – volunteer with a friend!**

Please visit our PTA website [www.mohrpta.org](http://www.mohrpta.org) for descriptions of the duties on any of these positions or contact PTA President Beth Limesand at [elimesand@comcast.net](mailto:elimesand@comcast.net) or EVP Laurie Yoon-park at [laurie.yoon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laurie.yoon@sbcglobal.net) with questions or to volunteer.

Your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. *Please submit articles for the May publication to [theeagleexpress@comcast.net](mailto:theeagleexpress@comcast.net) by April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Health and Wellness



Ah, spring has finally sprung! Now that the days are longer and soon to be warmer we find ourselves doing more outside activities. One activity is bicycle riding. It's fun, helps keep us fit and gives us mobility. It also helps kids develop judgment, self confidence, safe practices and lifelong skills. The most important part of cycling, besides having fun, is learning to do it safely. The attitudes that we as parents instill in our children now will help determine how he or she will ride for years to come.

### Basic Rules To Remember

- No playing in the street.
- No riding alone on busy streets.
- Stop and look before entering a roadway, crossing a driveway, a sidewalk or any other area where there might be automobile or pedestrian traffic. Look left, right then left again. Children should walk their bike across busy intersections.
- Bicycle ride with flow of traffic regardless of whether it is on the street, the shoulder or the sidewalk.
- Teach children to obey traffic signs and signals and how to ride safely.
- Tell your children to make their own decisions, don't do something just because a friend is doing it.
- Wear bright clothing.
- Do not wear headphones while riding a bike. It's a distraction and makes it hard to hear traffic.
- Maintain safe bikes that are in good working condition. Are the tires inflated properly? Do the brakes work? Is the seat and are the handle bars tight and straight?
- Make sure your child's bike is the right size. When your child is on his or her bike, have them stand straddling the top bar so that both feet are flat on the ground. There should be 1-3 inches of space between your child and the top bar. If the bike is too large or too small it will be difficult for your child to handle.

### ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET!!!

- Always wear a helmet even if it's for a short distance. In fact wear a helmet with any wheeled item i.e.: skateboard, rollerblades/skates and scooters. Even children riding in bike tows need to wear helmets.
- Maintain a "no helmet, no ride" policy.
- To make sure your child's helmet fits properly it should sit flat on his or her head 2 finger widths above eyebrows. It should not tilt forward or back..
- The helmet should be snug. One finger should fit between the chin and chin strap.
- Have your child shake his or her head. If the fit is right, the helmet will stay on tight.
- Buy a helmet that meets U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission, ANSI, ASTM or SnellB90 standards. Look for the sticker!
- Always replace a helmet that was in a crash.

Remember, bike riding is a great activity that the entire family can enjoy. Have a safe spring, happy riding and remember to buckle up, your helmet that is!

Information gathered from 1) I'm Safe On My Bike by Wendy Gordon  
2) [www.ibike.org/education/safety-kids.htm](http://www.ibike.org/education/safety-kids.htm)  
3) [www.kidshealth.org/kid/watch/out/bike\\_safety.html](http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/watch/out/bike_safety.html)

**Beth A Gallagher, Health and Wellness Chair**

## eScrip News

April Updates

**With the budget crisis in California affecting our schools, the scrip program is one of the best ways you can participate to raise money for our school at NO ADDITIONAL COST to you! If you shop at Safeway, NobHill/Raley's, Lucky, Target, or any participating scrip merchants (list available through [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)), your shopping can benefit Mohr!**

### ***What your shopping has done for Mohr in 2008!***

eScrip supporters raised \$ 5,652  
from January to November! (\$7,667 in 2007)  
In September, total contribution was \$939.53, which included  
\$472.95 from the 10% Back to Schools Program!  
Target shoppers raised \$3,191  
from January to September! (\$2,886 in 2007)  
Nob Hill/Raley's shoppers raised \$230  
from Jan. to Dec.! (\$443 in 2007)

Here are all the ways YOU can help Mohr in 2009!

**LUCKY SHOPPERS:** We have received our Lucky Supermarket SHARES cards. Please pick up a card from the office. When you use this card at Lucky, they will donate 3% of every dollar you spend to Mohr!

**NOB HILL SHOPPERS:** Remember to show your Quality of Life Card to the cashier each time you shop! If you have never picked up a Quality Life Card, they are still available in the office. Before using it at Nob Hill/Raley's, go online to activate the card.

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

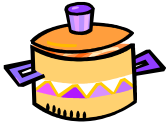
**SCRIP/SAFEWAY SHOPPERS:** Make sure you registered your Safeway grocery card and credit cards at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).

**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](mailto:virginia.hwang@gmail.com)

## Mohr's Spring Parent Potluck



We welcome you to gather once again with our Mohr Family, Share some delicious food, reconnect with old and make new friends at our Spring Parent Potluck Luncheon.

This will be our final family event of the year. We encourage everyone to whip up a tasty dish to share, and join us. Younger than school-aged children are welcome!

**Friday, May 22, 2008, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**, in the Multi-Purpose Room. Watch for a sign-up sheet in an upcoming Wednesday packet.

## Yearbook Update!



Congratulations to Jiho Choi in 12B! Jiho's eagle drawing was selected as the mascot that will be printed on the front of our yearbook cover this year!

We would also like to thank all of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders that submitted a design for the yearbook – your hard work and effort are greatly appreciated!

*Heather Babati*  
*Heather Ramsay-Macsata*  
*Yearbook Co-Chairs*

## OPEN HOUSE MAY 19



Make sure that you remember to mark Tuesday, May 19 on your calendar from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to join us at Mohr for the annual Open House and Art Show. The students and teachers work very hard to prepare examples of their accomplishments during the year. Classrooms are decorated and many feature pictures, videos and other commemorations of the school year.

We are eager to see you to share information and thoughts about the school year. Also, take time to join us in the MP Room to see samples of our local artists at Mohr. The Arts play an important role in making sure that your child receives a balanced learning program that exercises all aspects of their intellect.

## Amador Valley Adult & Parent Education Classes

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

- ◆ **1, 2, 3 Magic : Discipline for Children Ages 3-9**
- ◆ **Baby Sign Language** Fee: \$20 (includes book) \$30/couple (sharing book)
- ◆ **Co-Parenting**
- ◆ **Making Choices That Reduce Stress and Still Foster Success!**
- ◆ **Parenting Your Aging Parent**
- ◆ **You Just Don't Understand: Improving Couples' Communication**



All classes are free unless otherwise noted. For more information about the courses offered, visit their website at: <http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted>. To register for a class, call Amador Valley Adult & Community Education: (925) 426-4280.

## Education Grants

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation Education Grant application packets may be obtained from the PPIE website, [www.ppie.org](http://www.ppie.org). This year's deadline for Education Grant applications is April 21, 2009.



Education Grants are available for teachers and faculty of PUSD and fund in amounts of \$2500. For more information, contact Terry Messick-Cass (PPIE Parent Ambassador), or the PPIE office at [mail@ppie.org](mailto:mail@ppie.org) or (925) 846-5620.

PPIE Salute to Partnerships Luncheon is on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, 11:15 am to 1:30 pm at Castlewood Country Club. This year's theme is "Celebrating Education That Blossoms."

## Register to vote

Currently, there are two upcoming elections scheduled (May 19 and June 2). If you are not already registered to vote, information is available at [www.acgov.org/rov/registration.htm](http://www.acgov.org/rov/registration.htm).

