



news and events

# THE EAGLE EXPRESS

**Robin Sehrt Principal**

Office 426 4256

**March, 2009**

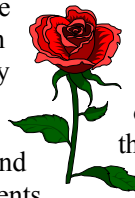
## Principal's Message

Dear Mohr Families,

Throughout these past months the main source of conversation has been about the current state of the budget. Many of our families and friends have been personally touched by these economic times, causing stress and insecurities for us all. Our mission here at Mohr is to continue to nurture and guide our students in their social, emotional, and academic success. During these times we are reminded of the most important aspect of our job—our students. We know that each child's success is due to the strength of our community; one in which we all nurture and support each other as a "family". Our community makes a difference in so many ways:

- Our teachers, staff members, and specialists who share with our students their love of learning, their connection with our children, and their belief that every child can succeed in school and in life;
- Our PTA who provides our community with fun-centered family events. The PTA's financial support to each classroom provides materials and supplies, as well as enrichment opportunities that make learning come to life in each classroom;
- Our office staff, who always greets every face with a smile and are willing to go the extra mile to make everyone feel part of the Mohr "family";
- Our custodians who keep our school clean and safe and help keep our Eagle pride shining;

- Our librarian who takes the time to share the love of reading with every child;
- Our lunch staff and noon supervisors, who help our children to make safe and healthy choices;
- Our Wednesday packet crew, who unselfishly gives up their Wednesday mornings to put together vital information for every family to read;
- Our *Eagle Express* editor, Beth Limesand, who puts in countless hours not only to our newsletter, but our "What's New at Mohr" website.



Challenging times will always be a part of our lives. Our connection with each other is one very real element that can make a difference in our response to these times. Let us remember this connection and the power we have to make a difference with not only with our friends and family, but our students- the leaders of our future.

*"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."*

--Leo Buscaglia

This quote reminds us that no act of kindness goes unnoticed and every action we make can make a difference. The next time you are on campus, take an extra moment to smile at another parent, give an honest compliment to a teacher, or share a kind word about a child.

**- Robin Sehrt, Principal**

R E S P E C T  
 H O N O R  
 S E L F - D I S C I P L I N E  
 I N T E G R I T Y  
 C O M P A S S I O N  
 R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y



2000 - 2004



2005

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## Jump Rope For Heart Coming in March ... ... but not as a fundraiser this year.



Mohr Elementary's 10th annual Jump Rope For Heart event will take place on Wednesday, March 18th. As in the past, we will hold our activity on the black top and it will run from 3 PM to about 3:30 PM.

However, because of the economic crisis facing many families, as well as our state and particularly Pleasanton Unified School District, we will NOT be raising money this year to help support the American Heart Association.

This is was a difficult decision, but considering the fact that our school board was forced to present a long list of staff and program cuts on February 24th, I did not feel it was appropriate to ask our school community for additional monetary support for causes beyond our core educational focus. Of course, our event will still be a wonderful opportunity for Mohr's students and parents to come out and have fun, exercise their bodies and enjoy a non-competitive atmosphere of rope jumping and hula hooping. I know I speak for the entire staff when I say how much we appreciate your support and I hope to see many of our Mohr family on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Mr. Maz,  
PE Specialist*

*Please Never Smoke*

## Summer School 2009



In the interest of saving copying and paper costs, the district will not be sending home a summer school brochure with each student this year. Summer School information (dates, times, locations) is available on the PUSD web site, [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us). Click on Summer School from the menu.

Course selections and applications will be available online on March 9.

## Daylight Saving Time Starts in March



Daylight savings time starts at 2AM on the second Sunday in March. This year that lands on **March 8, 2009**. At that time, clocks will need to be adjusted one hour later in order to be set to Pacific Daylight Time.

## Important Dates

Special School Board Meeting – Subject: Parcel Tax 4:30pm	March 4
Harvest Park Incoming 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Information Night	March 5
Multicultural & Heritage Event Planning mtg. 8:15am Library	March 6
Daylight Savings Begins (Spring Forward)	March 8
PPIE Student Grants Application Deadline	March 10
<b>MINIMUM DAYS – Parent Conferences. All Kindergartens on AM schedule</b>	March 12-13
PTA Executive Board Meeting, 12:30 pm in 11B	March 16
Science Fair – Mohr	March 16
Science Fair – Alameda County Fairgrounds	March 17
Multicultural/Heritage Festival Activities	March 18-20
Jump Rope For Heart	March 18
Heritage Festival Assembly – All Kindergartens attend AM schedule (8:10–11:30am)	March 20
Multicultural/Heritage Evening Event	March 20
Eagle Express Articles Due	March 23
PTA Meeting-7:00 pm Social, 7:30 pm Business – LIBRARY	March 24
Teacher Preview – Book Fair- 11:30 am to 12:45 pm in the library	March 27
Excellence in Education Nominations Due	March 27
Spring Book Fair	March 30-April 2
Book Fair Family Shopping Night 6-8 pm	March 31
The next issue of the Eagle Express will be distributed April 1	

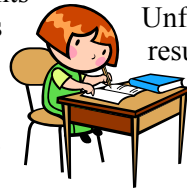
## Vice Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that the 2008-09 school year is nearly two-thirds of the way completed! March is when the days get longer and the flowers begin to bloom. It is also the time of year when Mohr students participate in some very important writing assessments. On Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> graders will take the California Standards Writing test. The make up test will be given the following day for any students who are absent. Since the Writing test is a secure document, please remind your child not to talk about the subject or contents until everyone has had the opportunity to take the test. We want to ensure that the testing conditions remain fair and standardized for all students who participate. The type of writing that students will do when they take the state writing test is called an "on-demand prompt".

It is important for all students to develop the ability to write to on-demand prompts. More and more, businesses, organizations, and educational institutions use on-demand prompts to evaluate the ability of individuals to express themselves clearly and logically, given a relatively short amount of time, using writing as the medium. The writing samples will be scored by readers at Educational Testing Service (ETS) and will appear on the STAR results forms that will be sent home in August. You will see the score for the Writing test under the "Writing Applications" section of the results.

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will not be the only ones taking an on-demand writing assessment during the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will complete an on-demand writing assessment as well. Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

grades will be given "one day" to write and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will complete the writing in "one sitting". The writing assessments will then be scored by teachers using the "on-demand" rubrics that were developed at the district level earlier this year. Teachers will not score their own papers. Instead, they will work with other teachers to assess the student writing. The District writing assessment is a valuable part of our writing instruction. The on-demand assessments allow us to monitor progress, through the grades, that students are making in writing, especially in their ability to respond to an on-demand prompt.



Unfortunately, due to the budget situation this year, no results will be sent home to parents, and the score will not be entered on the report card as a district score. Instead, teachers have been asked to use the results of the writing assessment to help inform their writing instruction. The expectation is that teachers will use the results of the scoring to inform their plans for instruction in writing for the remainder of this school year. The main objective of the writing assessments will be to provide information that will help teachers better understand their students' areas of strength as well as their challenges in writing.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information. I can be reached at [rgorton@pleasanton.k12.ca.us](mailto:rgorton@pleasanton.k12.ca.us) or 426-4256 ext. 2152.

*~ Rich Gorton, Vice Principal*

### Science News



Eco-Science Club desperately needs your old clay pots. Our project will reuse and recycle old clay pots for a living gift to seniors in our community.

Help us make a difference and brighten the day for a senior. We can also use potting soil and craft paints.

Huge thanks to PEAK Energy Coalition for the generous donation of T shirts and CFL light bulbs to all 4th graders. These students will also receive an activity packet with a chance to win a "solar backpack". PEAK helps students learn not only about electricity but also about ways to save energy and protect resources. Thanks PEAK!

*Mikki Conley –Science Specialist*

### Cafeteria News



In an effort to keep the food we serve our students the freshest possible, we are no longer serving hot meals in containers that have been pre-cooked off-site. As students come through the line, cafeteria assistants spoon portions onto their tray the 'old fashioned' way. Food is heated on-site, not at the district's central kitchen. The salad bar is incorporated into the serving line to encourage students to eat their greens. We hope this change will encourage our students to enjoy even more the healthy choices offered during lunch.

Please remember that a stamp on your child's hand means that his/her lunch account is low or out of money. Please add money to your student's lunch account before the next lunch is purchased from their account. Your timely attention to this is greatly appreciated.

For families who are experiencing financial hardship, please ask for a free or reduced price lunch application in the office. Names are kept strictly confidential. Thank you.

## Mohr Multicultural/Heritage Event



“Historical Faces and Places From Around the World!” **March 16 – 20, 2009**

### Music in the Morning

Children will listen to music from around the world first thing in the morning and guess the corresponding country.

### Multicultural/Heritage Event Booths

**March 18 & 19** during school hours. Volunteer to staff a country booth and show the kids the displays. No prior knowledge necessary, just an interest in the world! Come by the MPR and visit the booths. Please contact Elaine Marchant Panwar at: [Elaine@panwar.name](mailto:Elaine@panwar.name).

### Multicultural/Heritage Performance

**Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30PM – 8:00PM, Multipurpose Room. Come enjoy this FREE event! Over 120 Mohr children will perform! All Mohr families are encouraged to attend. Enjoy international food after the show! For information regarding the performance, contact Hetal Gaiamo: [hgaiamo@yahoo.com](mailto:hgaiamo@yahoo.com).

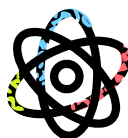
### FOOD NEEDED!

We need people to bring food for after the performance on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Contact: Praveen Hari at: [praveenhari@yahoo.com](mailto:praveenhari@yahoo.com)

### Heritage Dress Day

**Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** – dress in clothing that represents your heritage or represents a heritage you admire!

## Science Fair Keeps on Rocking!



On January 30th the students at Mohr attended the kick off assembly for the 2009 Science Fair. We also had a science fair workshop on February 5th. Students were able to buy the display boards and look through science books for interesting projects.

It is important for all students participating in the science fair to get started now on their projects and be ready to show them on the 16th of March. Projects can be turned in to the MPR on Friday, March 13th, from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. Otherwise, all projects will be due in the morning of Monday, March 16th. The MPR will be open at 7:30 AM for projects to be turned in.

On March 17th all of the Mohr School projects will be displayed at the Alameda County Fairgrounds from 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Please join us there for remarkable science fun!

The science fair committee will be contacting parents who turned in their volunteer forms to schedule their working times for this event. If you are able to help and have not turned in your sheet, please feel free to contact Linda Stanford at [lstanford@pleasanton.k12.ca.us](mailto:lstanford@pleasanton.k12.ca.us).

## Kindergarten Round-Up

**March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 3:30pm – 8:00pm**  
Amador High School Gym, 1155 Santa Rita Road



Parents are encouraged to enroll kindergarten-age students in the District either Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. This 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 will have reached 5 years of age on or before December 2 of the school year they enter

Documents necessary to register new kindergarten students:

1. **Acceptable proof of residency: (two of the following)** current utility bill (within 2 months) such as PG&E, water, telephone, garbage or cable TV; or rental/lease agreement signed within the last 2 months (with name, address & telephone number of lesser); or final escrow papers signed within the last 2 months. If registration pre-dates the start of school attendance by more than one month, a second utility bill may be requested after the first month of student attendance.  
*Unacceptable proof of residency includes:* bank statement, driver's license, credit card bills, personal check, property tax statement, mortgage statement, AFDC statement or cell phone statement.
2. Proof of birth (birth certificate, copy of baptismal record or passport.) Student must be 5 years of age on or before December 2 of the school year they enter.
3. Documentation of immunizations (signed by a doctor.)
4. Recommended: Parents' or legal guardian's employment information.

Children entering public school for the first time are to have a dental check-up by May 31<sup>st</sup> of the first school year. The evaluation must be completed by a licensed dental professional.

## Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation Night

Harvest Park will be having its final Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Information night on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The GATE program meeting will be at 6PM, and the Laptop Program meeting will be at 7PM, both in the Multipurpose room. Please note that this date has been changed.



## PTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring is in the air! As the school year enters its final months, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful parent volunteers. Mohr PTA programs succeed only because of the dedicated service of our volunteers. With your support, our PTA provides the many extras that we need in order to give our students the best. **Thank you** for all that you do! Here at Mohr, we depend on over 40 Committee Chairs and Co-chairs to keep all of our programs and services running smoothly throughout the year. This month I will again spotlight four important committees that will need new Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs for next year. Grab a friend and volunteer!

► **Gift Wrap.** The gift wrap fundraiser takes place in September, with product being delivered in November, just in time for the holidays. Organizers of this fundraiser distribute the catalogs and order forms to all families, collect the completed order forms, and arrange for the product to be delivered from the Gift wrap company. This fundraiser provides thousands of dollars to Mohr PTA, helping to support the programs and services we provide to Mohr School and the Mohr community.

► **Hospitality.** The Hospitality committee provides refreshments for events such as Back to School night, Coffee with the Principal, and Founder's Day. It also arranges for refreshments for the volunteers who spend long hours working at Registration and interviewing students for the Science Fair.

► **Ice Cream Sales.** This is both a fundraiser and a FUNraiser – you will be a hero to the many students at Mohr who flock to the Ice cream sales stations each Friday after school during the warmer months. Duties include purchasing ice cream novelties for sale, and arranging

volunteers to run the ice cream stations.

► **Field Day** is probably the most beloved event for Mohr students. It takes place on the second-to-last day of school, and requires a lot of volunteers to pull off. The Field Day chair arranges the various activity stations that the children cycle through, having enough volunteers to run each, as well as volunteers from each class to move each student group from station to station. A good, wet, wild time is had by all.

Mohr Elementary  
**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.

Contact me at [elimesand@comcast.net](mailto:elimesand@comcast.net) with questions about any of these or other open chair positions, or to volunteer.

**Thank you!**

Thank you to **Randie Hill** and **Tenne Rogers** for the awesome job they did in organizing **Bingo Night**. Thank you also to all their wonderful volunteers who worked hard to make this a fun and memorable event.

**Budget Meeting**

A huge thank you to **Superintendent John Casey**, **Assistant Superintendent Luz Cázares**, **District PTA 1<sup>st</sup> VP Tanya Ludden** and **Principal Robin Sehrt** for setting up the highly-informative, well attended February 2 parent information meeting about the budget situation.

And another huge thank you to the **Mohr teachers** who provided child care that night so that parents could attend and focus on the information being presented. You rock!

Please join us for our next PTA meeting, Tuesday, March 24th in the **Library**, 7 p.m. Social, 7:30 p.m. Business.

everychild.onevoice.

-- **Beth Limesand, PTA President**

## School Board Meeting Update

At the February 24 meeting, **\$9.9 million** worth of cuts were made to balance the district's budget over the next 18 months, including funding for many programs that have been responsible for the great success of Pleasanton schools: Class Size Reduction, Reading Specialists, Counselors, Librarians, and much more were completely cut or severely reduced. In total, more than 164 full time equivalent positions were eliminated.

Preliminary lay off notices will be delivered to affected teachers, specialists and staff by March 15, 2009.



A special School Board meeting has been called for **Wednesday, March 4** to finalize plans for submitting a school funding measure (parcel tax) on the June 2 ballot.

This meeting is open to the public, and anyone wishing to speak at the meeting may do so. The meeting will begin at 4:30pm. The venue for the meeting as of this newsletter's deadline is the district office, but if public interest is high, it may again be moved to the Amador High School Multipurpose room to accommodate those wishing to attend.

## READING MAKES YOU A STAR



Lights! Camera! Book Fair!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Come join us at the Mohr PTA Scholastic Spring Book Fair.

The Book Fair will be open March 30th – April 2nd from 8:00am – 4:00pm (except for Wednesday 9:00am – 4:00pm). Students and parents will have an opportunity to view and purchase books during the school day. Parents and students are also invited to Family Shopping night from 6pm-8pm on Tuesday, March 31st.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the book fair, please contact Barbara Hickey at [blh6@comcast.net](mailto:blh6@comcast.net) or Megin Markley at [Megin@aol.com](mailto:Megin@aol.com). All proceeds benefit the Mohr Library.

## Bingo Night Was Awesome!



Mohr families showed up for Bingo and everyone had a good time! Friends and family enjoyed pizza, nachos and other yummy treats, while enjoying a fun night at school.

Mohr's school spirit was evident at Bingo, as we **sold out** of Bingo Boards before the games even began. Thank you to all the families that came out to have a fun family night together.

We would like to thank the parent volunteers that helped us put on this event. Volunteers make events like this possible. And when so many families attend, it really makes our efforts rewarding. Thank you to: **Jen Wilner, Kati Higgins, Laurie Yoon-Park, Kathleen Knode-Spears, Terry Arellano, Tracey Greenan, Amy Neely, Deirdre Carrick, Deb Cardella, Karen Boswell** and **Paula Bursley!**

We would also like to thank **Lucy Garcia** and **Francisco Flores** for helping get our tables and room set up and cleaned up afterward. You guys are great! And thank you to our teachers **Mrs. Correia**; our Amazing Bingo Caller, **Mrs. Butler** and **Mrs. Finney** for coming out on a Friday night for Bingo. The kids love seeing you! And last but certainly not least, thanks to **Mrs. Sehart** for calling Bingo for the second half of the night. You did a great job!

I think everyone agrees, Bingo Night Was Awesome!

Bingo Co-Chairs

**Tenne Rogers** and **Randie Hill**

See You Next Year at Bingo!

## Health and Wellness

### Get Up And Move!!

It's cold and rainy, it's dark in the morning and dark before the day is over. There are academic requirements and other commitments placed on us as parents and our children. Let's face it; it's tough to get outside to get exercise or any other sort of physical activity. But, did you realize that in the United States children are less fit than they were a generation ago? Many children are showing early signs of cardiovascular risk factors. These include physical inactivity, excess weight, higher blood pressure, cigarette smoking, and lower levels of HDL cholesterol (the "good" cholesterol). Though heart attacks and strokes are rare in children studies have shown that these conditions begin in childhood. Children are spending too many hours participating in sedentary activities i.e. television, computers, electronic games etc. and not enough time being active. Children need time to be active. The National Association for Sports and Physical Education, the American Heart Association along with others recommend that school-age children get 1 hour or more of vigorous physical activity on most or all days and avoid periods of inactivity for more than 2 hours at a time.

### Benefits of Moving

- Feel less stressed
- Feel better about themselves
- Feel more ready to learn in school
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Build and keep healthy bones, muscles and joints
- Sleep better at night



### Move as a Family

- Walk to school together
- Take family walks
- Take family bike rides
- Take family hikes
- Ice skate, roller skate/rollerblade
- Swim
- Hop on a scooter
- Hit a tennis ball, play catch with a football or baseball
- Climb a tree
- Participate in team or group sports such as soccer, baseball/softball, basketball, football, dance



Come up with other ideas as a family. Have a hula-hoop contest, play tag, jump rope, play dodge ball or go to the park and let your children run and climb. Schedule active break times for children when they are doing homework. Turn on the music and dance; run up and down the stairs, run around the block, walk the dog, dogs need exercise too!

Join your children and have fun, you'll feel the benefits as well! Remember, when children see active parents then they will be active also.

Information gathered from 1)[www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) 2)[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org) 3)[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/print/exerciseforchildren.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/print/exerciseforchildren.html) 4)[www.bam.gov/sub\\_physicalactivity](http://www.bam.gov/sub_physicalactivity)

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

## California PTA Convention



**PTA members**, did you know that you can attend the State PTA Convention?

This year's convention will be held at the San Jose McEnergy Convention Center April 30-May 3 and there are some fantastic courses that you can take! Here are a few of the classes available:

- Help! My Child Is Struggling in School
- How to Have a Successful School and Family Partnership
- Green Environment for Everyone
- Is It Attitude or Depression?
- Understanding Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Navigating Cyberspace
- What's Cooking in Washington D.C.?
- It's Up to Us: Going the distance to close gaps and raise achievement for all

For more information about the CA State Convention, visit <http://www.capta.org/sections/convention-2009/downloads/RegistrationBook09.pdf>

The Eagle Express is generously provided by the PTA. Your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. *Please submit articles for the April publication to [theeagleexpress@comcast.net](mailto:theeagleexpress@comcast.net) by March 23, 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.

### 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. If you have any questions, contact Kati and Joshua Higgins at 596-0363.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Date Needed \_\_\_\_\_

Actual Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## eScrip News

### March 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)

## Student and Education Grants



PLEASANTON  
PARTNERSHIPS  
in EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

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 Student Grant applications for Cycle #2 funding must be turned in to the PPIE office no later than 4pm on Tuesday, March 10th, 2009.

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."

## To the Community



Amador Valley High School has received reports of students claiming to be from AVHS selling magazines door to door. **Please be aware that this is not a PUSD-sponsored activity.** If you have non-emergency concerns, please contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100.

## GATE Parent Education Night

**GATE** The GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Parent Education Night will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m., in the Pleasanton Middle School multipurpose room. Speaker Mary Ellen Huey, school psychologist and retired GATE Coordinator for Fremont USD, will speak on the topic *Beyond GATE, Strategies in Working with GATE Children*. For questions, please contact Marylou Wilson, Special Projects Coordinator, at 426-4325.

For more information, go to the District website at [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us) and navigate to Educational Services, GATE.

### Community of Character

This month's focus is on **Respect**.

*"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another."*

-- Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)

## Excellence in Education Awards



The Pleasanton community is encouraged to nominate a special teacher, administrator or staff of the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Excellence in Education Awards. To nominate an individual for an Excellence in Education Award, please

1. Check the list of Previous Honorees at [http://www.pleasantonpta.org/Excellence\\_In\\_Education.html](http://www.pleasantonpta.org/Excellence_In_Education.html) (previous winners are not eligible to receive the award again.) Nominees need not be affiliated with a PTA school to be eligible.
2. Download application from the above website and complete in black or blue ink.
3. Write a letter of nomination for your candidate.
4. Submit your letter of nomination, **typed or printed** with the completed application, by mail to the Pleasanton PTA Council, c/o Maintenance, 4750 First Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566; or via **email** to [excellenceineducation@comcast.net](mailto:excellenceineducation@comcast.net) with letter and nomination form as attachments, by March 27, 2009.

Nomination forms and required nomination letters must be sent together and received by March 27, 2009. Do Not Fax nominations. A public ceremony for the honorees will be held June 3rd. The Excellence in Education Awards are brought to you by the Pleasanton PTA, partnered by PUSD.

## Amador Valley Adult & Parent Education Classes

The following classes are being offered for March:

- 1, 2, 3 Magic: Discipline for Children Ages 3-9
- Building the 40 Assets®: What Parents Can Do
- Ergonomics Education for Students: A Class for Parents (*Partnership with Pleasanton PTA Council*)
- Focus on Teens: Communicating with Your Adolescent
- Parenting Tools for Positive Behavior Change (*\$10 materials fee payable to instructor*)
- Parenting Your Aging Parent
- So, This is Normal Too...Handling Challenging Toddler & Preschool Behaviors
- Teaching Empathy – Raising Compassionate Children in a Self-Absorbed World
- The Power of Green and Red Language: Choose
- They Grow Up So Fast!
- Understanding Autism: Parenting a Child with Autism/Asperger's Disorder



To Register: Call the Amador Valley Adult School at: (925) 426-4280.