

**PIEDMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL
Weekly Bulletin for June 8, 2009**

PMS ANNOUNCEMENTS

30 Days at a Glance

June	Event
8	Final exams begin - dismissal is at 12:40pm (see attachment)
10	6 th Grade Pool Party (9:00am-12:00pm)
9-11	Final Exams - dismissal is at 12:15pm
10	8 th Grade Celebration- 4:00pm
Submissions for the Weekly Bulletin should be sent to Ruth Sowell @ rsowell@piedmont.k12.ca.us by Wednesday @ 4:00pm.	

Reminder: Please Complete our PMS Needs Assessment Survey.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

27% of PMS parents have completed our Needs Assessment Survey. The survey is an opportunity to share your experience of our school's program, social climate, communications, and assessment practices.

- It is an online survey that takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.
- The survey is anonymous and the results will be shared with the Board of Education, School Site Councils, and the entire PUSD education community.
- We are requesting one survey per household.
- Your participation in this survey helps promote our culture of continuous improvement.

The survey can be reached at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/PMSNeedsAssessment>

NOTE THE DAY! - Eighth Grade Celebration Rehearsal will be Wednesday, June 10 at 12:30pm at the PHS Gym. ***Attendance is mandatory.***

Eighth Grade Celebration will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 4 p.m. in the Piedmont High School Gym with a reception immediately following at the Piedmont High School Quad. Look for more details as the date approaches. Parents, please be aware that the celebration is during finals week and that the 8th graders will have finals on Thursday, June 11.

Message from the Principal - The Boat Dance was a huge, windy success. Thank you to Terry Patton, Karen Ellis, Liz Tuan, Karen Hill and all of the other parents who organized this fantastic end-of-the- year event for our eighth graders. The boys were so handsome in their sport coats and ties and the girls looked lovely in their dresses, even though many of them were freezing. The parent chaperones were amazing as they valiantly stood outside weathering the wind and as they stood inside listening to the (very loud) music. Most importantly, the kids had fun.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the parents, Parent Club, and to all of the support groups within the community of Piedmont. Your steadfast support of our students, teachers, staff and programs is so appreciated. Your generosity, thoughtfulness, contributions, and efforts are invaluable.

Many thanks to the Food Service Volunteers who gave their and energy this year to feed the masses! Have a wonderful summer.

Students and Parents: All library books (not textbooks) were due **Monday, June 1st.** Beginning Monday, June 8th, sixth and seventh grade students may check out library books for the summer.

All **textbooks** should be returned to the library **BOOK RETURN** as soon as students are finished with them and no later than **June 11, 2009.**

Summer Reading. Summer is a great time for recreational reading. To help you select books to borrow from our library and the public library over the summer, we have listed high interest books by genre on our web site.

www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/pms/Library/Library.html

The gift that keeps on giving! Through the efforts of former PMS parent Teresa Picchi of East Bay for East Africa, Piedmont Middle School has donated its used textbooks to a village school in Isulu, Kenya for the past several years. Last year, the PMS student council donated \$1,000 to pay for shipping the books. When Ms. Picchi and her volunteers arrived at the airport with 400 pounds of books, the agent at the Virgin Atlantic Airlines counter decided to waive the extra baggage fee after learning that the books were destined for a poor secondary school. The new village school was complete except for the roof. The \$1,000 donation from the PMS student body paid for the iron sheets, and the local community paid for the roof supports. Pictures of the completed school and thank you notes from the students are on display in the library.

PARENT CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers needed for PMS Walk-Through Registration - Mon 8/24/09

Please sign up to help out at PMS Walk-Through Registration on Monday 8/24. We need 70 parent volunteers to sign up for morning or afternoon shifts to help with on-line application completion, directory and emergency card checks, PE uniform distribution, school photos and more. There are four volunteer shifts: 8-10am, 9:45-12 noon, 1:45-4pm, 3:45-6pm. All volunteers will receive a free pass to jump the lines at walk-through registration. There will be a short orientation meeting for registration volunteers on Friday, August 21 – exact time will be confirmed. Sign up to volunteer in the PMS main office or email Sarah Pearson at srpear@gmail.com with your time slot preference, name, number and email address. Any questions? Call Sarah Pearson, incoming PMS Parents Club VP, at 658-0888 or Ellen Wilson, incoming PMS Parents Club President at 658-3771. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – KEY SEPTEMBER PMS EVENTS

Wednesday 8/26: First Day of School Socials for each grade

6th Grade: 7:30am Donut Social to Welcome 6th graders on the Rec.Dept Lawn

7th Grade: 3:15pm Ice Cream Social in the MPR

8th Grade: 3:15pm Back to School Pizza Party on the Recreation Dept Lawn

Thursday 9/10: 12:40pm Early Dismissal for all Students & 6th Grade Bonanza.

6th Grade Bonanza at Witter Field immediately after school gets out. Details and costs to come.

Thursday 9/10 7pm: PMS Back to School Night for Parents.

Visit all your child's classes, hear about the curriculum for each course and meet your child's PMS Teachers.

Friday 9/11 8:30am: 1st PMS Parents Club Meeting for 2009-10

All PMS parents welcome and encouraged to attend. Meeting held in the District Board Room. Find out what's in store for 2009-10 from the PMS administration and Parents Club officers.

Congratulations to the newest additions to PMS Site Council: Katy Shotton, Kathy Kelleher and Leshia Manly. We thank them for their interest and welcome them aboard. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9 @ 3:30pm in room 201.

A Message from the PMS Parent Club President - Thanks to all who were involved in the PMS Parent Club. I appreciated everyone's generosity and involvement which helped to make for a great team — and a fun year. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer!
Cheers, Mary Ireland
PMS Parent Club President '08-09

Table Topics: Talk to Your Child about the Impact of Their Words – Students are using racial slurs and taunts are on the increase at PMS — teachers and administration are talking to students, but they need you to bring up the issue at home. More and more students speak to each other with little regard for others' feelings and backgrounds — not unlike how some of their favorite TV characters talk to one another. The language used in many of the favorite movies and TV programs that our children watch is often wildly inappropriate for their years. ("South Park," anyone? Clever? Perhaps. Offensive? Definitely.) And often the students who are using this language have no idea of the implications of its meaning and how hurtful and offensive it is to others. Help your children understand that taunts, racial or otherwise, are not funny or clever to *real* people — only offensive.

The PMS Parent Club Changeover Meeting will be held on Friday, June 5th in the District Boardroom at 9:30am — *please note time change from the usual 8:30* — to be followed by a luncheon at 11:30 for all outgoing and incoming board members hosted by PMS Hospitality Reps, Kim Lally and Camilla Soghikian. All parents are welcome at the 9:30 meeting — hope to see you there!

Enjoy Library Work? Come Volunteer in the PMS Library! - Would you like to volunteer in the PMS Library next year? Shifts are one day per month, 11:45am to 1:15pm, and provide a great opportunity to help the librarians and to check out the PMS lunchtime library scene. Working in the library is a small task with big payback for our students. To sign-up, or if you have questions, please contact Kate Faust at katefaust5@yahoo.com.

Food Service Sign Ups for 2009-2010 - The food service volunteer sign up sheet will be available in the office beginning Monday, April 27th. Remember that the spaces go quickly! So gather your group of four friends and get signed up for next year. In addition to our usual 4-person group, we will also have a slot available for brunch help. This is a very easy way to become involved if you have not had the time in the past. Brunch lasts for just 15 minutes. It is so easy, and you will have the opportunity to work the fruit stand with Mr. Scherman's 6th graders during fruit stand season!! **HURRY TO THE OFFICE AND CLAIM YOUR VOLUNTEER SPOT WITH FOOD SERVICE!!** Any questions, call or email Lisa Riddiough at 653-8572 or lisar@riddio.com.

Need a Year-End Gift? Think Scrip Gift Certificates! - Want to find a way to recognize a special teacher or student before the end of the school year? What about a Scrip gift certificate? You can purchase Scrip Gift Certificates in any amount. A certificate will be printed with the purchaser's name, recipient's name and the dollar amount of the gift. Then you give the certificate to them and they can pick out whatever type of Scrip they like. It is so easy, raises money for our schools and make a very thoughtful gift. To purchase Scrip or Scrip Gift Certificates please email Vicki Diaz at vickicdiaz@yahoo.com or call 594-9322. Thank you for all your support!

Need another Piedmont Student Directory? Due to an error in printing, we have extras and are selling them to parent club members for \$5. Get them for the car or office, for your children to have their own copies. Visit the Piedmont Educational Foundation Office located at the rear of the Community Center building in Piedmont Park, next to the preschool. The office is open most business hours, phone 653-1816. The profits help support special programs in the schools. The 2008-2009 edition has lots of information.....get another hot pink version while they last.

The mission of Piedmont Educational Foundation (PEF) is to promote academic excellence, champion innovation and provide sustained financial support to the Piedmont schools. PEF, a community-based K-12 district-wide school support organization, provides financial support through its grants programs and annual distributions from the Endowment Fund. PEF is committed to preserving and enhancing the long-term quality of the Piedmont schools. Please renew your investment in our children and our schools through a contribution to PEF. For additional information, please visit the website at www.PiedmontEdFoundation.org.

Average Daily Attendance -Did you know that for every day that your child misses school the District loses \$33 in State funding? To help relieve the financial burden to the Schools, you can choose to reimburse them this amount. Simply send a check to Business Services Office, Piedmont Unified School District, 760 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont CA 94611, made payable PUSD, indicating it is an ADA reimbursement. Thank you for your support.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Use of promotional materials or advertisements exhibited does not imply Piedmont Unified School District endorsement of any identified products or services.)

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SUMMER JOBS? The Piedmont Recreation Department is proud to be sponsoring its 43rd year of P.L.A.Y! P.L.A.Y. (Piedmont League Action for Youth) puts Piedmont youth entering sixth grade and up in contact with Piedmonters who need summer workers. Jobs may include babysitting, yard work, pet care, etc.

P.L.A.Y. signups will take place Wednesday, June 3rd and Thursday, June 4th from 3:10-4:10 p.m. on the first floor of the Piedmont Recreation Department. There is a one time sign-up fee of \$20.

Starting June 15th students should come to the P.L.A.Y. office to register. For more information, call the main office at 420-3070 by June 15th; after June 15th, call the P.L.A.Y. office at 654-7863.

2009 Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival - Experience the energy and music of the finest children's choirs in the world at the 2009 Golden Gate International Children's Choral Festival! From **July 13 to July 18**, come to one of the many free concerts to hear youth choral groups from such countries as Finland, People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Denmark, and several choirs from the U.S. Sponsored by the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, the festival's concerts will be

in the East Bay and San Francisco, with a **Festival Closing Concert on July 18 at 7:30 p.m., at Zellerbach Hall** in Berkeley. For concert schedule and to purchase tickets for the Closing Concert, visit the PEBC Web site at www.piedmontchoirs.org