

PIEDMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL
Weekly Bulletin for May 3, 2010

PMS ANNOUNCEMENTS

30 Days at a Glance

April	Event
May	
7	Diversity Day
13	Scoliosis Screening for Grade 7 Girls and Grade 8 Boys
19,20,21	STAR Testing
25-26	STAR Test Make-Ups
June	
2	Collaboration Day - Dismissal is 12:40pm
Submissions for the Weekly Bulletin should be sent to Ruth Sowell @ rsowell@pedmont.k12.ca.us by Wednesday @ 4:00pm.	

Food Faire tickets for the May 7 Diversity Day will be sold Monday through Thursday during lunch A and B on the Patio by ASB students. Tickets are 50 cents each. Three dollars worth of tickets is usually plenty.

Attention Food Service Volunteers! - It is time again to claim your volunteer spot on next year's food service calendar! Please go to the office to add your name to the calendar. Remember that this is a great way to spend a little time at PMS, see your student and have some fun with other parents!! Coordinate your friends for a group of four or be daring and attach yourself to a random group! Questions??? Contact Kathleen O'Brien by phone at 510-326-4233 or by email at mmandheer@yahoo.com.

Scoliosis Screening - On May 13th the district nurse and a nurse from the community will screen all 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys for scoliosis. Please call 594-2751 if you have any concerns or questions.

Back to School Walk-Through Registration - Mark your calendar - PMS Walk-Through Registration is Monday, August 30, from 1pm to 7pm. A parent must be attend with his/her student.

Attention Sixth Graders - Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 2 for the annual sixth grade trip to Boomers! Since students will be dismissed at 12:40 that day, we'll be loading onto buses and heading to Livermore. (Check <http://www.boomersparks.com/park/livermore/index.html> to see what activities they can do.) Students will be returning to school around 4:30pm. More details & permission slips will be emailed in early May. We will be looking for lots of adult chaperones, too -- at least two from each core class. If you're interested, please email Amanda Docter (amanda@pixar.com) and mention which core class your child is in.

The popular APCP Summer Enrichment Program (Summer School) is now open for registration. This summer's program will take place in two sessions, from June 21st to July 16th, 9:00am - 12:00 noon. We are offering a wide range of courses: Welcome to Middle School, art, science, math, writing, drama, cooking, computes, film-making and more. Visit our website www.apcpsummerenrichment.org to learn more and register on-line. Questions? Email: apcpsummer@gmail.com

STAR test dates for 2010 have been changed: the tests will be administered on Tuesday, May 18; Wednesday, May 19; and Thursday, May 20. Make-ups will be held on Friday, May 21 and Monday, May 24.

Film Club is open to all Piedmont Middle School students. We meet Mondays and/or Wednesdays after school in room 120 at 3:05pm. Stay as long as you like. We're open until 5:00. Students plan, shoot, and edit animated or live action short videos. Please see Mrs. Smith if you would like to sign up or if you have questions. The remaining dates are for Quarter 4: Wednesday 5/12, Monday 5/17, Wednesday 5/26, and Monday 6/7.

PMS Jazz Band in joint concert with Oakland's Westlake M.S. Jazz Band

On Thursday, May 6, the students of the Piedmont Middle School Jazz Band will receive a special treat. They will be joined in a concert by the Westlake Middle School Jazz Band, part of Oakland Unified School District. The Westlake Jazz Band is conducted by Randy Porter and the Piedmont Middle School Jazz Band is directed by Andria Mullan.

This collaboration concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Alan Harvey Theater, 800 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont, on the Piedmont High School campus. Ticket sales for this event will be split between the two bands and proceeds will go towards supporting their Jazz Band programs.

The groups will also have the pleasure of working with renowned jazz guitarist, Brian Pardo. Pardo will join the students to work as a clinician with each band after school on May 6th. He will also join them in the concert that evening where he will sit in as a guitar soloist.

Tickets are on sale starting now. Please contact P.U.S.D. Music Administrator, Jan D'Annunzio at jd'annunzio@piedmont.k12.ca.us to reserve your tickets in advance. Tickets will also be available at the door, which will open at 7:15 pm. The ticket cost is a sliding scale donation of \$5-\$10 per person.

International Food Fair – Friday, May 7 - In conjunction with Appreciating Diversity Day students will be able to enjoy international foods at lunch. **Parent volunteers are needed to donate food and help with the fair.** Room Parents will be asking for your help with this event. Watch for an announcement from your Room Parent asking you to sign up to volunteer food and/or time. Other items also needed are canopies (to protect the food from the elements) and coolers. If you have any questions or want to get involved you can also contact Cyndy Penn-Duecker at PMSfoodfair@gmail.com.

Parents of 8th Graders – Save the Date! - PHS Athletics Orientation Meeting for parents will be held May 25th from 7:00 to 8:30 in the PMS Multi-purpose room. Please come learn about the PHS sports program if you think your child might be one of the 75% who participate on a school athletic team. More information about the agenda will follow in subsequent PMS Bulletin announcements!

PARENT CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Date	Lunch Entrée(s)	Volunteers
MON – 5/3	Children's Choice	Jamie Miller, Lisa Oyama, Susan Wong, Noelle Pillsbury, Leslie Fennel (B)
TUES – 5/4	Children's Choice	Diane Deutsche, Claudia Harrison, Kristi Stone, Bev Newcomb, Kristen Hession (B)
WED – 5/5	Children's Choice	Lisa Oyama, Andrea Hackett, Alissa Quan, Alicia Fisel, Lena

		Yan (B)
THURS – 5/6	Holly's Mandarin Noodles - \$3.00	Heidi Monical, Bianca Forrester, Mike Clancy, Tina Stott
FRI – 5/7	Diversity Day	Suzanne Luban, Anna Picchi, Jenny Burns, Paula Silver, Rhonda Coldiron (B)
<p>*** Menu subject to change without notice ***</p> <p><u>*Daily Brunch items may include Biscuit, Bagel, Muffin, Pretzel</u></p> <p>** (B) Indicates Brunch Volunteer</p>		

The Piedmont High School Summer School Program registration is now open. For information and to register for one of the three enrichment classes: High School Computers, 8th – 9th Grade Transition, or Study Skills / Writing Skills for High School Students, please go to the Piedmont Unified School District website and look under the heading of “schools” for the summer school program. Once there, click on the link on the left side of the screen that says “High School Information”. For information and to register for a remedial class (a high school core class in which your student earned a grade of a D or F) through the online summer school program, please pick up an application at the Piedmont High School counseling office. For questions, contact the high school counselor, Ting Hsu, at thsu@piedmont.k12.ca.us or Karen Gnusti, Millennium High School principal at 510-594-2702.

8th grade Boat Dance – Save the Date - The annual end-of-middle-school celebration aboard the Red and White Fleet’s Royal Prince will be held on Saturday, June 5th. Drop off at the dock at Oakland Ferry Dock at 530 Water Street (at Clay) in San Francisco will be at 6:00, the boat will board at 6:30 and pick up will be at 10:00 pm. The theme is ***Sailing into High School*** and the suggested attire is semi-formal, which is defined as dresses for girls and jacket and tie for boys. Please note that no high heeled shoes and no purses are permitted. Aboard the Royal Prince, the students will be served dinner and soft drinks, dance to the music of a DJ and be entertained by a magician or a fortune teller(still in planning stages), and an extensive “casino”. To culminate the evening, there will be a raffle at the end. Each student will receive one raffle ticket with their boat dance ticket. The price of the boat dance ticket will be \$70. Invitations will be mailed the last week of April and will include directions to the dock and a permission slip which must be signed and returned with payment.

We are seeking gift card donations from parents to serve as our Raffle prizes. Suggested gift cards would be in the amount of \$25 and for places such as: Mulberrys, Apple, iTunes, Fentons, EB Games, Yogurt Park etc. We also plan to raffle off several other items, including some larger prizes, so if you would like to donate any items (large or small) that would make good raffle prizes for the kids (e.g. cool ear buds, iPod, small iHome, etc., and new only, please!), please send us an email about those as well. Please send your email to pms.boat.dance@gmail.com if you are interested in donating! Your donations help keep the cost of the boat dance down – we thank you!

Please let us know if you have any questions.

8th grade representatives - Lindsay Barstow, Deborah Gadbois, Kathleen Henrikson, Meg Hunt, Kim Lally and Heather Price

APPRECIATING DIVERSITY DAY FOOD FAIR is fast approaching on Friday, May 7th. We are still in need of **FOOD DONATIONS**; we only have about ½ of what is needed and many more families need to contribute to make this a success. Please consider donating food of your favorite cuisine but remember the food must be **commercially**

prepared. This means from a restaurant, deli or **already prepared** from a store. The serving size is enough to make about 20-30 small individual servings. Please consider donating to make this special day.

We are also in need of 10 coolers to help keep any perishable food. If you have a cooler you wouldn't mind lending for the day please let us know.

Please contact your child's **ROOM PARENT to sign up**

For Questions contact Cyndy Penn-Duecker at PMSfoodfair@gmail.com.

Scrip Home Delivery - You can sign-up to have Scrip delivered to your home each month - it is so easy! Please help our Scrip Program grow. This year the Scrip program will earn more than \$100,000 for our schools. This is fantastic! If more people signed-up to buy Scrip monthly, we could easily double this amount. Most people shop regularly at places like Safeway, Piedmont Grocery, Berkeley Bowl, Mulberry's, Peets, Starbucks, CVS, - just to name a few. To sign up today visit www.ppcscrip.org or to purchase scrip contact Vicki Diaz at 594-9322 or vickidiaz@yahoo.com Thank You for your support!

PIEDMONT RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Weekly Sports Schedule 5/3-5/7				
	Event	Location	Time	Carpool Time
Monday, May 3	PMS Track Practice	Witter Field	5:00pm	n/a
Wed., May 5	PMS Track Practice	Witter Field	5:00pm	n/a
Thursday, May 6	PMS Track Meet @ Martinez	Alhambra High School, Martinez	4:00pm	3:10pm

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF-COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Please consider donating needed school supplies, which many Haitian school children continue to find difficult to obtain. I am putting together "School Kits" to send to Haiti.

Each kit will contain:

- 6-unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1-handheld pencil sharpener
- 1-2 ½ inch eraser
- 1-pair of blunt tipped scissors
- 3-pads or packets of ruled paper
- 1-ruler (30cm)
- 1-box of 24 crayons

Each kit will be put in a handmade tote bag then sent to Haiti.

A box to receive your donations is located in the PMS main office

Thank you so much, in advance for your help!

Spring Fling 2010 – Casino Royale Online Auction Closes Today at 5pm!

Spring Fling 2010—Casino Royale is in the home stretch! The auction event is this Saturday and there are still lots of opportunities to participate!

Online Auction Closes today at 5pm! Bid Now! Due to the overwhelming response and generosity of our donors, an **additional 50+ items** have been moved into the **online** auction! Don't miss your chance to bid/**pre-bid** on a wide variety of items, services, parent parties and teacher donations. To bid visit the auction website at www.piedmontspringfling.org. The online auction will close tonight at 5pm.

Announcing Spring Fling Raffle: Win an IPAD! Purchase your raffle ticket for just \$25 and be entered into a drawing to win this year's most coveted new device from Apple: the iPad, valued at \$600! Tickets to be sold at Mulberry's, via Scrip representatives at all three elementary schools, and during the Spring Fling Cocktail/Silent Auction. Winner need not be present at the event to collect this prize.

It's Not Too Late to Donate or Sponsor - Visit the Spring Fling 2010 -- Casino Royale website at: www.piedmontspringfling.org **Questions?** Call or email: Julia Burke 653-1816 Lynne Hosler 595-9005 or lynnehosler@comcast.net

SPRING FLING 2010 FUND-AN-ITEM:

Donate to bring vital educational technology to our elementary schools!

This year, the goal of the Spring Fling Fund-an-Item drive is to bring vital state-of-the-art technology to our elementary school classrooms to enhance teaching and learning. These tools give teachers the opportunity to revolutionize the way they prepare and deliver materials, augment the way our children learn, and help keep Piedmont students competitive with other schools around the country.

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS FUND-AN-ITEM DRIVE IN INCREMENTS RANGING FROM \$50 TO \$5,000.

To contribute:

1. Visit www.piedmontspringfling.org, check out the video demonstration by some of our wonderful teachers, and click on the "Fund-an-Item" link.
2. Or, paste the following URL into your browser to go directly to the Fund-an-Item donation page on the Spring Fling website:
<http://piedmont.maestroweb.com/Details.aspx?OrgID=212&ItemID=1403&selection=7>
3. Or, for those attending the live auction portion of Spring Fling 2010 – Casino Royale, plan to raise your paddle during the Fund-an-Item segment.

This year's Spring Fling Fund-an-Item contributions will underwrite the installation of:

LCD Projectors (\$1,300+ each)

Teachers can utilize LCD projectors to easily prepare lessons in advance on their laptop, integrating graphics and web content as needed, to deliver on a large screen that can be viewed by the class.

Document Cameras (650+ each)

Document cameras allow teachers to project physical objects onto a large screen – particularly useful for hands-on lessons like science experiments with strong visual components.

Smart Boards (\$1,300+ each)

The Smart Board technology provides a wholly interactive experience – like a large computer screen which teachers and students can edit and manipulate using their finger

as a mouse. As a class or in groups, teachers and students can interact with content, visit websites, and mark up text.

Thank you for supporting Piedmont schools!

New Opportunity for Promoting No-trash Lunches (a.k.a. “Less Lunch to the Landfill”) - Have you been trying to decrease the amount of trash (throw-away plastic, etc.) that comes out of the lunches you pack? Have you found it hard to find re-usable lunchware at local stores? The different green committees and teams at the Piedmont schools teamed up to find solutions, and our research showed that a local on-line company - One Small Step - offers re-usable lunchware products at prices comparable to or less than what you can find at the stores. We have made arrangements with them to provide FREE drop-off delivery at 3 sites around Piedmont or FREE home delivery for orders over \$75 (and for orders of any size on weeks where not many orders are placed). In addition, One Small Step will be donating 10% of every order from Piedmont to the Piedmont schools. During April (as an Earth Week/Month promotion), 20% will be donated to Piedmont schools.

To place an order, go to www.onesmallstep.com. When you check-out, indicate which drop-off site is best for you (Wildwood Schoolmates, Beach Office, or the Fundraising Office (basement of Piedmont Community Center)). You will receive an e-mail from One Small Step letting you know when your order is ready for pick-up at that site. Please note that any questions about your order should be directed to One Small Step, not to people at the drop-off sites). The 10% donation to Piedmont schools will be made automatically for all Piedmont addresses and/or orders requesting one of the Piedmont drop-off sites. (If you have friends and family out of the area who'd like to order from One Small Step and have 10% go to the Piedmont schools, they can enter “Piedmont schools” in their fundraising preference when they register. They can have their order shipped using the normal shipping procedure.)

For more information: Margaret Ovenden movenden@sbcglobal.net

Piedmont Language School Parents: Mark your calendars for the PLS End-of-Year Open Houses from May 13-21. **All are scheduled during regular class times.** Teachers will send home invitations with specific time, date, and place with your children at the beginning of May. Last day for elementary Spanish is **Wednesday**, May 19. Last day for Mandarin, Margarita's afternoon Spanish and PMS is May 20. Japanese class will meet on May 21, and their last day and picnic will be on May 28. If you hear of any conflicts, such as a field trip, or if you have any questions about your Open House, call the PLS office at 652-5229. The PLS March Newsletter was emailed; call if you didn't get it.

Get Educated About Education - Thursday, May 13th - 7:00-8:30 pm at 17 Sierra Ave, Piedmont

Does the future of California's public education concern you? Are you tired of hearing that 49 other states in our Union fund public education at higher levels than California? Are you distressed at learning that schools around the State have issued thousands of layoff notices - for the third year in a row? **Where does Piedmont fit into this picture?**

Parents and interested community members invite you to hear a discussion with **Norton Grubb, Ph.D., acclaimed University of California at Berkeley, Professor of Education at the home of Doug and Mary Ireland, 17 Sierra Ave. on May 13th, 7-8:30 pm** about how we got here, what it means for Piedmont, and what we can do as a community to plan for the future of our schools and our children.

Professor Grubb is the David Pierpont Gardner Professor in Higher Education and faculty coordinator of the Principal Leadership Institute at Berkeley. A prolific author and researcher, his work spans many aspects of public education – from the economics of schools, the implications of academic and vocational tracking, to social policy for children and youth. His most recent book is *The Money Myth: School Resources, Outcomes and Equity* (2009). He received his B.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University.

RSVP to Mahvash Hassan (mahvash_hassan@yahoo.com) by Monday, May 10th (space is limited; admission is free; donations are welcome). Co-sponsored by the Associated Parents Clubs of Piedmont and the Piedmont Educational Foundation.

Piedmont Soccer Registration For the Fall 2010 Season Begins April 1- You can register at www.piedmontsoccer.org. - The Fall 2010 registration fee will be \$100 per player for all Under 6 (U6) players, \$175 per player for all U8 players, \$185 for all U10 through U19 recreational level players. There will be a \$50 uniform surcharge for each child playing U10 or above. Players who register after May 10th will be assessed a \$50 late registration fee. Registration will close May 31, 2010. Registrations received after that date will be allowed on a space available basis. **We look forward to another great soccer season.**

Navigating the Road to College for Students with Special Needs - PRAISE (Piedmonters for Resources, Advocacy and Information in Special Education) encourages high school students with special learning needs and their parents to attend a discussion geared toward helping you navigate the road to college and life after PHS. Sandra Brod (Piedmont High School Counseling Coordinator) will present information on colleges that work well for special needs students, explain why they work, and provide insights into the application process. Brooke Zimmerman (PUSD Director of Student Support Services) will explore student self-advocacy skills, explaining what they are, why they are important, how they help in college and with jobs, how to develop them, and what parents can do to foster these skills. The evening will close with some special needs Seniors from Piedmont High School sharing first-hand experiences and their plans for next year. This event is sure to be informative and inspirational to special needs or learning challenged students and their parents who are starting to think about future alternatives after PHS. Presentation is on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at the Piedmont High School Library. **Meet-and-greet begins at 7:15 pm, followed by the program at 7:30 pm.** Refreshments will be provided and everyone is welcomed. For more information, contact interim PRAISE President Beth Hughes at 510-326-1828 or visit the PRAISE website at www.piedmontpraise.org

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Please join Piedmont Baseball Foundation and Piedmont Girls Softball for our annual fundraiser with the Oakland Athletics at the Coliseum. The date is Friday, June 4 vs. the Minnesota Twins. Cost is \$40.00 per person which includes a tail gate BBQ dinner, a field level seat for the game, and post-game FIREWORKS!!

This is a great event for not only our players and parents but also baseball/softball

alumni, grandparents, cousins, friends and neighbors, everyone!

To buy tickets or for additional information please contact your team's A's Night Coordinator or email Barry Barnes (bbarnes510@gmail.com)