PIEDMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL
Weekly Bulletin for 13, 2010

PMS ANNOUNCEMENTS

30 Days at a Glance

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<td>Site Council Meeting – 3:30pm (room 201)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Minimum Day – Dismissal time is 12:45pm</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Back-to-School Night – 7:00pm</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Magazine Sale Begins</td>
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<td>7/8 Welcome Back Dance – 6:30pm</td>
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Submissions for the Weekly Bulletin should be sent to Ruth Sowell @ rsowell@piedmont.k12.ca.us by Wednesday @ 4:00pm.

REMINDER - This year every Monday will be an Early Release Day. Dismissal time is 1:55pm.

Back to School Night will be this Thursday, September 16 from 7:00-9:00pm. It is a Minimum Day - students will be released at 12:45pm. Students will bring home a schedule for parents to follow for the evening.

Library - The Library will be closed after school on Mondays while teachers are collaborating. The library will continue to be open before school at 7:45, at brunch and after school Tuesday through Friday until 4pm.

You can access the PMS Parent Handbook by clicking here

Are you Interested in Acting? Do you want to be part of a group of 6th, 7th and 8th graders who perform for our school? Wanna learn how cool Shakespeare can be? Tryouts for Shakespeare Club will be at 7am in the MPR on September 16 and September 23. You must attend both dates to try out. No exceptions. More details to follow and look for posters around the school.

School Calendar Changes – There have been several changes to the 2010-2011 PMS School Calendar printed in the Student Planners as well as the Parent Handbook. The Progress Reports mailing date for quarter one currently reads October 1 - the correct date is October 8. Quarter two currently reads December 3 - the correct date should read December 16. Quarter three reads March 4 - the correct date is March 11. Quarter 4 reads May 6 - the correct date is May 13. Also, the final exam release time for June 13 will be 12:45pm, not 1:55pm as posted. Please adjust your calendar to reflect these changes.

Attention All Parents – All adults coming onto campus must stop in the office to sign-in and receive a visitor’s pass. This includes food service volunteers, library volunteers, bulletin volunteers, parents coming to meetings or conferences, parents presenting in classrooms, parents coming to watch performances, parent group meetings, etc. If you need to get something to your student, please bring it to the main office and we will be sure your student gets it. Please do not go directly to a classroom.
**Whooping Cough** - The county health department has observed a sharp increase in the number of cases of pertussis (Whooping Cough). For more information please go to [http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/forms/announcements/Pertussis_Letter.pdf](http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/forms/announcements/Pertussis_Letter.pdf) for more information.

**Please Participate in the English Language Arts Survey** - Approximately 30% of PUSD families have responded to the District’s English Language Arts Survey. We want to thank all that participated and would like to obtain many more responses. If you have not participated, please use this opportunity.

Each site is collecting parent feedback as it prepares to complete its review of English Language Arts in the 2010-2011 school year. The link below takes you to the survey and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Findings will be shared at site council, curriculum forum, and Board of Education meetings this fall.

The results of the survey may impact single plans for student achievement and curriculum decisions. We appreciate your support in completing the survey. You are encouraged to fill out one survey for each of your students who attended a Piedmont Unified School in the 2009-2010 school year. Follow this link: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PMS_ELA_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PMS_ELA_Survey)

**Piedmont Schools Tobacco-Free** - All parents and students, as well as community members, are reminded that Piedmont Unified School District has been declared by board policy to be tobacco-free. This means that the use and sale of tobacco products is prohibited anywhere, anytime, on District property, including District vehicles and at school sponsored activities to include sporting events, and other student performances.

Signage is in place to remind everyone that the schools are designated as tobacco-free. We appreciate the cooperation of students, staff, parents, and community members in this regard. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Brooke Zimmerman, Director of Student Support Services, at 594-2798.

**Witter Field Access is not for Student Drop Off/Pickup** - The Piedmont Unified School District is committed to providing a safe environment for our students. The access road from Witter Field to Piedmont High School and Piedmont Middle School is to be used only by Permit A parking holders (PUSD personnel) and Maintenance Department vehicles during the school day. Drivers of these authorized vehicles have been advised to use extreme caution on this road at all times since students use this road as a walkway. **Please do not use this road for student drop-off or pick up.**

**Parents to Accompany and Stay with Children at Athletic Events** - Students below high school age who are attending PHS athletic events must be accompanied by an adult at the gate and should be under supervision during the entire event.

**Filming of Students** - This is to notify you that KCOM, Piedmont’s local television station, will be filming student school events throughout the school year. Generally these are group performances, such as the holiday concerts or Birdcalling; however, in some cases, individual students are identified by name. These programs are aired on Channel 27, which only is available to cable subscribers within the City of Piedmont.

**School Trying to Notify Parents with Blocked Phone Systems** - The school district phone system shows either “out of area” on home phones that have the Caller ID System, or are “blocked” by the recipient phone because the name of the caller is not
available. Parents need to be informed so that the school number can be unblocked or be aware that an “out of area” call may be the school trying to reach them.

Student Absences – Reimbursement – The District loses funds (approximately $35.00 per day per student) when a student is absent for any reason. The District is still required to track reasons for student absences for the compulsory education laws. If parents wish, they can reimburse the District for school days missed by the student. Please make your check payable to PUSD and deliver it to the office.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lunch Entrée(s)</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
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<tr>
<td>MON – 9/13</td>
<td>Children's Choice</td>
<td>Anita Soohoo Cheung, Nancy Lim, Betsy Lalli, Zayda Thiel</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUES – 9/14</td>
<td>Children's Choice</td>
<td>Carol Menz, Sarah James, Melinda Han, Suzanne Sassi</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED – 9/15</td>
<td>Children's Choice</td>
<td>Alissa Quan, Lisa Oyama, Alicia Fishel, Lisa Wolfe</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURS – 9/16</td>
<td>Minimum Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI – 9/17</td>
<td>Cybelle's Pizza - $3.00</td>
<td>Leslie Frankel, Polly Suppiger, Teeramate Parker, Carla Parker</td>
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*** Menu subject to change without notice ***

*Daily Brunch items may include Biscuit, Bagel, Muffin, Pretzel and “Special” on Friday*

**(B) Indicates Brunch Volunteer

Back-to-School = Scrip - Please remember to purchase Scrip whenever possible. Scrip provides important funds to our Piedmont schools. Last year alone the Scrip program raised a total of $130,000! We can raise even more money this year with your help. We currently offer Scrip for the following merchants: Piedmont Grocery, Berkeley Bowl, Market Hall, Mulberry's, Safeway, CVS Pharmacy, Whole Foods, See’s Candy, Macy’s, GAP/Old Navy/Banana Republic, Sephora, Sports Authority, AMC Movie Theaters, Amazon.com, iTunes, Barnes & Noble, Home Depot, Pottery Barn/Williams Sonoma, Ace Hardware, Peets, Starbucks and Jamba Juice.

Please do your part by signing up for Scrip Home Delivery today or contact Vicki Diaz vickicdiaz@yahoo.com or Lisa Peters lisareadpeters@hotmail.com to purchase Scrip anytime. Thank you for your support!

There’s still time to join the PMS Parent’s Club and receive your 2010-2011 directory! Our Parent Club coordinates volunteer efforts throughout the school year and funds general education, enrichment and extracurricular programs for our kids. It also serves as an important interface between the school and families. Each school within our district relies on Parent Club funding. If you’ve already joined another Parent Club in Piedmont, please consider joining our PMS Parent Club as well. You’ll receive another directory (perhaps for your car or for your spouse or kids) and you will also have the satisfaction of knowing that your contribution is helping fund critical programs for PMS. Please send your $60 dues to Lindsey Meyersieck, 111 Ricardo Ave., Piedmont, Ca. 94611. Questions? Meyersieck@aol.com or 654-0629.
6th Grade Back-to-School Bonanza - Don’t miss the fun! It’s not too late to sign up for the 6th Grade Back to School Bonanza on Thursday, September 16th (minimum day). This is a great way to get to know your classmates and have a fun afternoon bouncing on lower Witter Field. We will have pizza, drinks, snacks, games and Astro jumpers.

If you haven’t yet signed up, just fill out the attached permission slip and drop off with a check for $20 made payable to the PMS Parents Club. Permission slip and checks should be dropped off to the PMS school office no later than September 10.

Chaperon and set-up/clean-up help is also needed. If you would like to help or have questions about the event please contact a 6th grade rep.

Terri Burge tsburge@yahoo.com, Kristi Mitchell at kristiwm@gmail.com or Heather Price at k0ondty@comcast.net

RECREATION DEPARTMENT SPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Piedmont Recreation Department is accepting registrations for flag football, volleyball, cross country and evening tennis? Please contact the Piedmont Recreation Department at (510) 420-3070 for more information or to register.

Cross Country Returns for Its Fifth Season - The Piedmont Middle School Cross Country program returns for its fifth year and registration is now available through the Piedmont Recreation Department. Cross country is a sport anyone can do, and it does not require learning any skills or plays, just an interest in running. Girls and boys of all ability levels are welcome and the program helps develop endurance which is important in any sport. Any interested student is welcome to first attend a practice session, check out what we do, and then decide whether to enroll in the program. Practices are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, after the last bell and take place at Witter Field. This practice schedule allows kids to pick the days that are the best fit for them and provides flexibility to also participate in other after-school programs. The website for the program is: www.pmscc.com

Practices will include running for endurance, improving your running form, how to warm-up and cool down, agility drills, and strengthening your core muscles. In addition, there will be runs to local parks (Crocker, Dracena, Hampton, etc.), plus some special destinations such as Fenton’s, Mulberry’s, etc. Fun running games will also be incorporated into practices and there will be a team party to kick-off the season. A mileage incentive program will be part of this season’s activities and as mileage goals are reached, gift cards to Jamba Juice, Yogofina, and Fenton’s will be awarded. There will be competition with other middle schools, with 6th graders running a mile and 7th & 8th graders running 1.25 miles in the meets. The season concludes with a championship meet for each grade level and gender, with both individual and team trophies awarded. For more information, call the Piedmont Recreation Department at 510-420-3070.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Board of Education invites everyone to attend and participate in a Special Meeting on the District budget, on Thursday, September 16, 3:00-5:00 in the City Council Chambers in City Hall.
The District, along with all school districts in California, is facing an unprecedented budget crisis. The District now projects a shortfall of $5 million over two years, starting in 2011-12. This crisis is the result of sharp reductions in State education funding, as well as annual increases in the cost of salaries and health benefits, and the expiration of Piedmont’s "emergency" parcel tax.

Since 2008, the District has resorted to one-time or temporary increases in revenue (such as the emergency parcel tax) and decreases in cost (such as furloughs) to balance the budget. In this way, the District has been fortunate to avoid the significant program cuts that are being made by nearly every school district in the State. (For example, Alameda is currently working on a schedule to close elementary, middle and high schools, and Orinda has not had school librarians for several years.) However, this approach is not sustainable -- a more permanent solution is needed. Given the magnitude of the funding crisis, all manner of raising revenues and reducing expenditures must be considered.

Piedmont’s exceptional educational program was created, and has been maintained, through a vibrant and dynamic partnership among teachers, staff, administrators, families and the Piedmont community. The same collaboration and innovation is needed to address the funding crisis and minimize the impact on the quality of education in our schools. Please join us for this important meeting! If you cannot attend in person, this meeting will be broadcast on KCOM, and questions and comments may be addressed to the full Board and Superintendent via e-mail as follows: rgadbois@piedmont.k12.ca.us; rtolles@piedmont.k12.ca.us; mjones@piedmont.k12.ca.us; jmonach@piedmont.k12.ca.us; rraushenbush@piedmont.k12.ca.us; chubbard@piedmont.k12.ca.us

Parents - If there have been changes in Student Directory information collected during on-line registration; please send the new information ASAP to: helpingpiedmontschools@gmail.com or call the Piedmont Educational Foundation Office at 653-1816. The updated directory will go to press soon. Parents must also notify their school site office.

Piedmont Language School Parent Information Night, Monday, 9/13 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Ellen Driscoll Theater, Havens
Please join us on Monday, 9/13 to learn about Piedmont Language School's Spanish, Mandarin, French and Japanese class offerings and for the chance to meet some of our teachers. You can find more information and register at www.piedmontlanguageschool.com. There is still time to register. All classes begin the week of 9/20. Any questions? Call Executive Director Barbara Love at 652-5229 or email piedmontlanguageschool@yahoo.com

Piedmont Language School's new Spanish immersion program will be available at the Piedmont Community Church for middle school students. You can find more information and register at www.piedmontlanguageschool.com. There you can also learn more about the Spanish kindergarten to fifth grade programs, and the Mandarin, Japanese and French programs, which will take place at Beach School or the Piedmont Community Church. Please contact PMS parent Sherrie Shoptaugh (sshoptau@yahoo.com, 510-597-1941) if you have any questions.
Have you been thinking you'd like to reduce your personal and home energy use, but aren't sure where to start? Do you wonder how our individual actions can make a difference in addressing global energy challenges? Come for an evening of answers and inspiration: “Save Carbon/Save Money”, a talk by Dr. Daniel Kammen of U.C. Berkeley (national expert on energy policy issues) followed by a Question & Answer session on local resources for residential energy efficiency, conservation, solar installations and green building/remodeling practices with:

- StopWaste – Judi Ettlinger
- City of Piedmont – Kevin Jackson
- PG&E – TBA

Thursday, September 16\textsuperscript{th} (note date change: previously scheduled for 15\textsuperscript{th}) 7:30 p.m.
Ellen Driscoll Playhouse, -- 325 Highland Ave

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Piedmont and Piedmont CONNECT

Speaker: Kathleen Crombie

Learn the current definitions used from the National Association for Gifted (NAGC), California Association for Gifted (CAG) and Piedmont Unified (PUSD) to define a gifted child; understand how a high achieving student may have similarities but distinct differences from gifted students; discuss some of the challenges faced by parents to support the needs of their children in and out of school.

Tuesday, September 21, 2010
7:30-9:00 pm
Beach School Multipurpose Room

Please RSVP by September 20 to PiedmontGPS@me.com. Suggested Donation $10 (for Educational Training & Programs for Gifted and Twice–Exceptional Students in PUSD).

Kathleen D. Crombie earned Master of Arts and Master of Education in Counseling Psychology from Teachers College-Columbia University in New York. She works at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in the departments of Psychiatry and High-Risk Pregnancy; Kathleen also works at Summit Center in Walnut Creek as a Co-Facilitator of SENG-model Parent Support Groups. She is on the community advisory board for Camp Summit, a residential summer camp for gifted and talented children. She is also the President of Piedmont GPS; recently accepted the position to be the California SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) Liaison; and is a professional organizer with a specialty in helping gifted and twice-exceptional children, students and adults.