

Nixon News

A Nixon PTA Newsletter

August 27, 2010—Issue 1

Principal's Corner *By Mary Pat O'Connell*

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Aug. 31

Back to School Night for
Parents Only

- **6:00 - 6:50 pm**
K-2nd classrooms
- **6:50 - 7:20 pm** all
parents meet in
theater
- **7:20 - 8:10 pm**
3rd – 5th classrooms

Thursday, Sept. 2

Principal's Coffee for
New Families Staff
Lounge
8:15 - 9:15 am

Monday, Sept. 6

No School
Labor Day Holiday

Monday, Sept. 13

Volunteer Orientation
8:45 - 10 am
Theater

PTA General Meeting
11:30—12:30 pm
Theater

Tuesday, Sept. 21

Picture Day

Back to School Picnic
5:30-7:30pm



Dear Nixon Families,

Welcome to the start of a new school year! School year beginnings always hold much promise for new learning and new friendships, along with new challenges and new triumphs that result from taking on those challenges. Our teachers were hard at work well before the students arrived in order to prepare for them. We trust that you are finding that their enthusiasm is contagious and has spread to your child!

Hopefully, your family has comfortably transitioned from summer into your school year routine. We have made one change here at Nixon for the start of the school day to encourage on time arrivals by all students. Supervision on the playground begins at 7:45, so feel free to arrive early. (Students who arrive very early on the bus from Stanford West and Oak Creek are supervised from the time they get off the bus.) The morning bell will be ringing at 7:55 to signal to the students that it is time to stop playing and get in line at their classrooms for the start of school. Teachers will welcome their students into their classrooms at

8:00 and the day will begin. When taking attendance, students arriving after 8:00 will be recorded as tardy.

Several new teachers have joined the Nixon School staff this fall. Debbie O'Brien, a Nixon parent who had been an aide at Nixon during the last two years is our new resource specialist. Debbie worked in this role at two schools in the Midwest before she moved to California with her family. Joining our 5th grade team is Mary Blazensky. Mary taught for 15 years at Woodside School and then took a few years off to spend time with her family. Lena Grodin comes to us from Duveneck School to job share with long time Nixon teacher Britt Brown in the fourth grade. Lena was Britt's student teacher a few years ago. Krista Velasquez, also from Duveneck School and also in the fourth grade, will be job sharing with Kerrie Edmonds and Martha Waterhouse. We are excited about our new staff members and look forward to the contributions that they will bring to our work.

Please plan to join us next Tuesday evening, August 31 for our annual

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About *Nixon News*

Nixon News is a PTA funded newsletter, designed to serve as a parent educational and information resource. It is published on Friday (except when holidays interfere) every three to four weeks. Submissions should be sent via e-mail to the editor, Julie Tomz. Either type the text directly in the body of the e-mail or attach a Microsoft Word Format file. If your article is on paper and cannot be submitted electronically or if you have a photo or graphic, please contact the editor for instructions. Deadlines are announced on page 2 (see below) of every issue. They are normally (but not always) the Wednesday the week before publication. Articles may be edited for spelling, grammar, clarity, and length. All submissions must include your name and contact information.

Information in this newsletter is provided as a community service. The mention of any business, service, or organization in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Nixon PTA or the PAUSD.

Next Publication: Fri., Sept. 24
Deadline: Thurs., Sept. 16
Principal: Mary Pat O'Connell
PTA Co-Presidents:
Beth Most & Shali Miklos
Editor: Julie Tomz
Layout: Anjana Patel

Principal's Corner *Continued from page 1.*

Back-to-School Night. The schedule is contained elsewhere in this newsletter and also on the website. Teachers will have important and useful information to share with you about your child's class for this year. We will continue to communicate with you this year in a variety of ways including this newsletter, our Nixon website (www.nixon.pausd.org), the Nixon e-News, email and very occasionally voicemail. If you have not visited the Nixon website, please check it out. It holds quite a variety of information. All of the information in our handbook is on the website under the header "ABOUT." (We distributed paper copies of the Handbook only to new families this year to save paper.) You can find the lunch menu for the month, emergency procedures, contact information, the school calendar as well as upcoming events, etc., etc. Please notice the option on the left side bar to translate the website information into a variety of languages. While these automated translations have limitations, we are told that they are getting better and some of our families may find this feature helpful.

My sincere thanks go to our school secretary, Becky Brewer and clerk, Ginny Chu for their cheerful efficiency in dealing with the myriad of details involved in opening school. On top of all of the usual work, our district has transitioned to a new student data management system adding the learning of this new system to this past month's workload. Three cheers for Becky!! Nixon school was sparkling clean as we opened our doors this week thanks to the hard work this summer of our custodial staff, Abi Okunuga and Guadalupe Ponce. Working quietly behind the scenes, many parents have helped to prepare the mailed packets, the welcome back events, the variety of after school enrichment opportunities, website updates, the schedule of activities for the year and so much more! Coordinating this effort is our new PTA leadership team of Beth Most, Shali Miklos and Ruth Ann Daines. We start this year full of appreciation for all who have helped us to open our doors, our hearts, our minds with warmth and excitement for all the promise that a new school year can bring!

Most sincerely,

Mary Pat O'Connell



Letter from the PTA Co-Presidents by *Beth Most & Shali Miklos*

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year at Nixon! We hope you had a wonderful summer. As your incoming PTA co-presidents, we look forward to reconnecting with you, getting to know those of you who are new, and working with everyone to make this a great year for our children.

We would like to start off the year by sharing some interesting facts that we recently discovered about the PTA as a national organization. Were you aware that the PTA has been one of the strongest sources of support and advocacy for our nation's schools and children? In fact, it is due to PTA efforts that we have:

- Kindergarten as part of our school system
- Child labor laws
- Federally-funded hot lunches
- A separate juvenile justice system
- Labels on music recordings and TV ratings

Your PTA is committed to enriching your child's school experience. This year we will continue to support Nixon in a number of ways, including but definitely not limited to sponsoring Nixon community events and assemblies and providing essential school to home communication. In addition, we have three specific goals for 2010-2011 at Nixon:

1. Enhance awareness about the role of the PTA and increase participation in our community. Many of the activities and services that we all take for granted, including the Nixon News, fall under the umbrella of the Nixon PTA. We hope that by the end of the year you will have gained a better understanding of the substantial role that PTA plays at Nixon. Without Nixon PTA support, this school would be a very different place.

2. Maintain and enhance the special sense of community at Nixon. Please mark your calendars for the following PTA events and activities during the next month:

Back to School Night for Parents	Tuesday, August 31
Principal's Coffee for New Families	Thursday, Sept. 2
PTA General Mtg/Volunteer Orientation	Monday, Sept. 13
Back to School Picnic	Tuesday, Sept. 21

3. Support our teachers. Nixon's staff truly makes the school a special place. Did you know that the PTA provides all of our teachers with a mini-fund to supplement each individual classroom budget? We hope to continue this type of support for our dedicated teachers.

Today your PTA is more important than ever as it helps bridge the widening gap between our children's needs and what the school budget can provide. In closing we urge you to join us! Our PTA is only as strong as our membership. Here are some of the ways you can support your Nixon PTA:

Become a PTA member! If you have not already done so, there is a one-check form in this newsletter. Please drop completed forms in the PTA box in the school office.

Contribute to our direct appeal. This year, in an attempt to eliminate frequent and burdensome fundraising, we are suggesting that each family make a one-time contribution of \$200. This may be a stretch for some families, but donations of any amount are always welcome. If you can give more, we appreciate your generosity. Once again, you can use the one-check form. You can find the one-check form in this newsletter. It is also available on the Nixon website.

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**HELP
WANTED**



Volunteer your time. We need volunteers for every PTA event. In addition, we are still searching for a VP of Student Programs, a Co-VP of Fundraising, and a coordinator for Escrip. Without PTA volunteers many events that we have come to enjoy at Nixon would not happen. As always, we welcome classroom volunteers and room parents.

We know that getting back into the swing of school routines can take some time. We are here to ensure that you have a smooth transition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Nixon PTA Executive Board members (see website and elsewhere in this issue of Nixon News), and we will do our best to help you find the answers.

We are looking forward to a fun and productive year.

*With warm regards,
Shali Miklos and Beth Most*

JOIN OUR SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MEETING

Come Monday, September 13 to Nixon's annual volunteer meeting!

Volunteering is very rewarding and a great way to help show our children that we're interested in their education. Please make this a special year by volunteering to help out in some capacity throughout the school year. While some volunteer positions require classroom participation, others can be done quite easily from home. Here are a few opportunities:



- *Room parents (or party parents): Plan class parties and other classroom activities with the teacher's guidance).
- *Field trip coordinator: Help organize drivers/chaperones for field trips.
- *Classroom treasurer: Keep track of and collect money for subscriptions and field trips.
- *Classroom volunteer coordinator: Schedule classroom parent volunteers (mostly at the beginning of the school year).
- *Communications coordinator: Create e-mail/phone tree for class and forward/send communication regarding special events in the classroom and school (very easy after initial set-up).
- *Classroom assistant: Teachers may like some assistance in the classroom. Time and frequency determined by teacher.

You can sign up for classroom volunteer positions at Back to School Night or at our volunteer meeting on Monday, September 13, at 8:15 a.m. in the Theater. This optional volunteer meeting will help you get started with volunteering in the classroom and will explain our upcoming events at school for the year. If you have already signed up to help in the classroom, thank you! If you have any questions, contact Kelly Mahoney.

Introducing 2010-2011 PTA Executive Board Members

Below are brief biographies of this year's PTA Executive Board members. Please contact any of them with questions or suggestions (or to volunteer to help out!).

Co-President: Beth Most

This is Beth's fourth year at Nixon. She has two daughters: her youngest in 5th grade and her eldest in 7th grade at Terman. She has volunteered in her children's classrooms, and served on both Nixon's principal selection committee and the District's elementary foreign language committee. She was also Chair of Nixon's Site Council. "Nixon has given my children an outstanding education and has provided me with a wonderful community. I believe I can say with confidence that our school is truly a unique place, having experienced no less than three different elementary schools prior to arriving at Nixon. In particular, I especially appreciate Nixon's diversity, teachers, and staff. During my last year here, I hope to give back to the school that has given my children so much."

Co-President: Shali Miklos

This is Shali's sixth year at Nixon. She has two children: her son A. in 4th grade and daughter M. in 7th grade at JLS. She has volunteered as a room parent, been a member of the Site Council, coordinated Bike Safety Day and served as Chair of 5th grade promotion activities. A geneticist by training, she previously worked as a program manager at a biotech company. "My family felt right at home after moving here from Boston six years ago. I really value the incredible teachers, staff and community we have here. I am excited about my role as Co-President and look forward to working with all of you to make this a wonderful school year for our children."

Executive Vice President: Ruth Ann Daines

This is Ruth Ann's sixth year at Nixon, and she has two more years with her youngest son, H.. She has been a room parent, library volunteer, classroom treasurer, Site Council member and continues to be Traffic Safety Chair. "I absolutely love Nixon

School, and think it is a really wonderful and special place. Having been an elementary school teacher, I can say with confidence that Nixon has some of the best faculty and staff I have ever seen. Please consider joining us in the PTA. We would love to have you!"

VP, Family Programs: Jo Marcus

This is Jo's seventh year at Nixon and her fifth year on the Nixon PTA Executive Board. She has three children: I. in 5th grade at Nixon, and two sons at Gunn. She and her family moved here from Boston in 2004. She has enjoyed volunteering in the classroom, helping with Nixon fundraisers, and co-chairing our book fairs. "Ever since we moved here from Boston six years ago, Nixon has become a very special place for us. It is a remarkable community of incredible teachers, staff and families."

VP, Fundraising: Sarika Pandey

Sarika is a new Nixon parent. Her son D. is in 1st grade. She will be working on the Fundraising and eScrip initiatives at Nixon. "I am very impressed with the positivity with which children are nurtured at Nixon. My son just loves the school and his teachers, which makes him a lot more open to learning new things."

VP, Communications: Liz Fendorf

This is Liz's seventh year at Nixon. She has two boys: E. in 2nd grade and K. in 6th grade at Terman. She has volunteered in a variety of positions including Nixon News Layout Editor, BoxTops Coordinator, Nixonnames Directory Editor, and has been a member of the PTA Nominating Committee, Auction Committee and 5th Grade Activities Committee. She especially enjoys volunteering in the classroom and library. "I look forward to my first year on the Executive Board, and feel privileged to be a part of the Nixon community."

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Treasurer: Lien Vu

Lien has two boys at Nixon: one in 3rd grade and the other in Kindergarten. She enjoys volunteering in the classroom and seeing the progress the children make through the school year. Her professional background is in Corporate Finance and Procurement, and she has a BS and MBA from Santa Clara University. "Nixon is a great nurturing place, where each child is encouraged to explore their interests and satisfy their curiosity. I hope to ensure the school's good works continue in my capacity as Treasurer."

Auditor: Karen Jacobson

This is Karen's fourth year at Nixon. She has two children: A. in 4rd grade, and G. in 2nd grade. She has been PTA Treasurer for the past two years and enjoys working in her children's classrooms and chaperoning field trips.

Financial Secretary: Theresa Chung

This is Theresa's fifth year at Nixon. She began volunteering in class and helping the room parent with parties, later becoming a room parent herself. She continues to Co-Chair Family Game/Math Night. "This is my daughter's last year at Nixon, and I look forward to helping out with the classroom activities, school events, 5th grade activities and as the PTA Financial Secretary. Nixon has been a patient and nurturing place of growth for both my child and me. As my child has grown at Nixon as a person and a student, I too have grown as a parent and a volunteer."

Co-Secretary: Cinnamon Chu

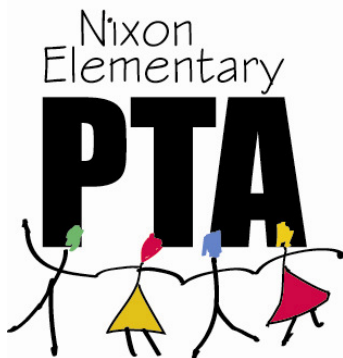
This is Cinnamon's fourth year at Nixon. She has two children: A. in 4th grade and J. in 1st grade. She was formerly Staff Appreciation coordinator and continues to Co-Chair our Ice Skating Party. "I love the passion and diversity of the Nixon community and look forward to serving as Co-Secretary."

Co-Secretary: Sarah Wert

Sarah is relatively new at Nixon, her children started last spring. "I am happy to have the chance to work with some of the many parents I've met toward helping our school. I believe that our kids and our community benefit when we all pitch in, and it makes it more fun for all of us."

Historian: Tim Edmonds

This is Tim's third year on the PTA Executive Board and his first year as Historian. He has two daughters: J. in 2nd grade, and E., a busy 3 year old and future Nixon student. His wife is fourth grade teacher Kerrie Edmonds. Originally from Kansas, Tim is in his 13th year coaching swimming at Stanford.



PTA Council Representative: Kim Bomar

This is Kim's fourth year at Nixon and third year on the PTA Executive Board. She has two sons: A. in 3rd grade and I. in 1st grade. Kim enjoys volunteering in the classroom regularly, and also serves as the Vice President of Outreach. Kim works part-time as an attorney.

PTA Council Representative: Ping Hao

This is Ping's second year at Nixon and as PTA Council Rep. She has two children: N. in 1st grade and N., who is three. She has been actively involved in her daughter's previous schools as well as her own alumni organization. Ping is also working on a start-up.

PTA Council Representative: Ammie Rodden

This is Ammie's second year at Nixon. She has three children: a 1st grader, and two younger children who are 4 and 1 years old. They live on the Stanford campus, and she works part time as a physician assistant. "We, as a family, are so excited to be a part of the Nixon community and I am looking forward to serving on the PTA this year."

Nixon Library Volunteers Needed!

Do you enjoy spending time at our library? Would you like to get to know what books are available? Then please come volunteer at the Nixon library during your child's class time in the library!

It's a fun and relaxing way to get to know our great selection of books, interact with your child and his/her classmates, and work with our wonderful librarian, Janice Mulholland. More than one parent can volunteer per class -- another way to meet other parents!

Look for signups during the next couple of weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Chung at or Nancy Sellinger.



INTRODUCTION TO YOUR NIXON SITE COUNCIL

The School Site Council consists of an equal number of parents and staff members and is responsible for developing a school plan and a budget to support the plan. They act as an advisory group and provide staff/community input on Nixon programs.

School Site Council meetings are usually held the first Monday of each month from 2:40 – 4:40 and are open to the public. Agendas are posted in the school office at least 48 hours prior to each meeting. A summary of the meeting is published in the Nixon News. A notebook with Site Council agenda and minutes is available in the school office.

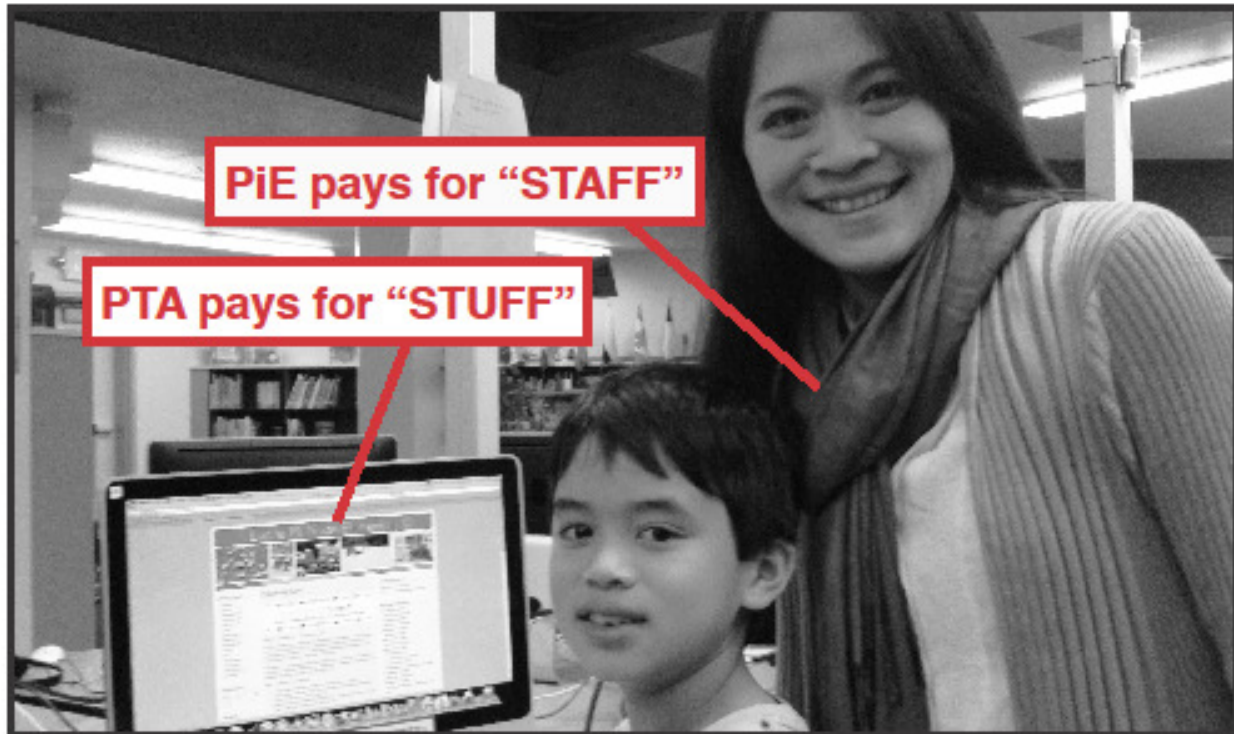
Staff Members of Site Council:

Mary Pat O'Connell, Principal
Megan Cox (09-11)
Stephanie Han (09-11)
Sarah Patanroi (09-11)
To Be Announced

Parent Members of Site Council:

Alli Deeter (09-11)
Mike Grady (10-12)
Vicki Sandin (10-12)
Julie Tomz (09-11)
Laura Nicolls (10-12)

Nixon Needs PTA and PiE



PTA (Parent Teacher Association) asks for \$200 per family, but donations of any size are appreciated. This year, the PTA has a goal of raising \$40,000 through direct appeal. All this money goes direct to Nixon Elementary and pays for:

- Teacher Discretionary Funds: reading, science, math and art materials to enrich the classroom experience for all students
- Library and Technology Updates: books to bring our library up to date, digital cameras and document readers in classrooms
- Community Events: International Night, Ice-Skating Party, Back-to-School Picnic, Family Math Night and Take Your Family to School week
- Student Assemblies: most of our assemblies are arranged and paid for by the PTA
- Instructional materials and office supplies: art materials, leveled reading books, printer and office supplies to keep Nixon running smoothly

PiE (Palo Alto Partners in Education) is a district-wide fundraising organization that gave \$2.9 million to PAUSD last year. PiE dollars are the only donated funds that can be used toward staff. This year, Nixon is expected to receive more than \$125,000 from PiE to pay the salaries of our valued aides. PiE asks for \$650 per child, but warmly welcomes donations of any size.

At Nixon, PiE funds:

- Classroom support: teacher aides, instructional assistants, reading/math specialists, and staff who support and enrich all students' learning
- Computer Lab Instructor: Sarah Patanroi who teaches hands-on computer skills
- English Language Development: language tutors and translators in Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, Japanese, Hebrew, etc., who work with Megan Cox
- Arts Instruction: Carla Gratta and Rebecca Gorden are Artist-Teachers who provide students with sequential, standards-based art instruction with the Spectra Art program

Thank you in advance for your generous support of Nixon's needs. Your involvement with both the Nixon PTA and PiE's Elementary Fund enriches the experience of everyone in our community – students, parents, teachers and administrators. Here's to a great school year!

HOW YOUR DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PTA (Parent Teacher Association)는 한 가정당 200불 정도의 지원을 부탁 드리지만, 지원 액수에 제한 없이 어떤 지원도 감사히 받을 것입니다. 올해 저희 PTA는 4만불의 기금 조성을 목표로 하고 있습니다. 이 기금은 모두 전적으로 Nixon 초등학교를 위해 쓰여지며 다음과 같은 일들에 유용하게 쓰여질 것입니다.

- 선생님들을 위한 기금: 선생님들의 독서, 과학, 수학, 미술 교육의 원활한 활동을 위해 필요한 용품 마련
- 도서관과 장비의 최신화: 최신화된 도서관 구축을 위한 도서, 학급에서 필요한 디지털 카메라 및 document reader 구입
- 학교 행사: 인터내셔널 나이트, 아이스 스케이팅 파티, 개학 기념 파티, 수학의 밤, 가족초대의 주
- 강당 행사: 대부분의 강당에서의 행사는 PTA가 주관 하고 비용을 부담합니다
- 학용품 및 교육용 자료: 미술 도구, 독서 수준에 맞춘 다양한 도서들, 프린터 구입

PTA (La asociacion de Padres Y Maestros), esta pidiendo la cantidad de \$ 200.00 dolares por familia, pero donaciones de cualquier cantidad van a hacer muy apreciadas. Este ano el PTA tiene una meta de recabar \$40.000 dolares a travez de donaciones. Todo este dinero va a ir directo a Nixon Elementary y paga por :

- **FONDOS PARA MATERIALES:** Lectura, ciencias, Matematicas, y artes. Todo esto para enriquecer la experiencia en el salon de clases para cada estudiante.
- **ACTUALIZACION DE LA BIBLIOTECA Y TECNOLOGIA:** Libros, Camaras Digitales, Programas de Lectura de Documentos, Copiadoras, etc.
- **EVENTOS PARA LA COMUNIDAD:** Noche Internacional, Fiesta de Patinaje en el Hielo, Picnic de regreso a la Escuela, Noche de matematicas para la familia y Semana de llevar a tu familia a la escuela.
- **REUNIONES DE ESTUDIANTES:** La mayoria de nuestras reuniones son arregladas y pagadas por el PTA.
- **MATERIALES EDUCACIONALES Y DE OFICINA;** Todo esto necesario para mantener nuestra escuela funcionando.

PIE (Palo Alto Partners in Education)는 팔로 알토 전체를 바탕으로 한 교육 기금 마련 단체이며 작년에는 290만불이 PAUSD (Palo Alto Unified School District)를 위해 지원 되었습니다. PIE모금은 유일하게 학교 직원들을 위해 쓰여지는 기부금입니다. 올해 저희 Nixon 초등학교는 학교 보조선생님들의 월급을 지불하기 위해 PIE로부터 12만 5천불 이상의 기금을 보조 받을 계획입니다. PIE는 한 학생당 650불 정도의 지원을 부탁 드리지만, 지원 액수에 제한 없이 어떤 지원도 감사히 받을 것입니다. PIE 기부금은 Nixon에서 아래의 일들을 위해 쓰여집니다.


- 학급 후원: 보조교사, Instructional assistants, 독서/수학 전문교사, 학생들의 교육활성화와 후원을 돕는 직원들
- 컴퓨터실 강사: 컴퓨터 강사 Sarah Patanroi
- 영어 교육 (ELD): Megan Cox 선생님과 함께 일하는 스페인어, 한국어, 중국어, 일본어, 히브리어를 구사하는 언어 교사 및 통역사
- 미술 교육: 미술 선생님이신 Carla Gratta와 Rebecca Gorden은 순차적이고 표준에 맞는 미술 교육 (Spectra Art program) 을 학생들에게 가르칩니다

PIE (Los companeros de Palo Alto para la Educacion.) Es una Organizacion que recaba fondos en todo el Distrito de Palo Alto, y que dono \$2.9 millones al Distrito Unificado de Escuelas de Palo Alto el ano pasado. Los fondos de PIE son los unicos fondos donados que pueden ser usados para el personal de la escuela. Este ano Nixon esta esperando recibir mas de \$125.000 dolares de PIE para pagar los salarios de nuestros asistentes. PIE esta pidiendo \$650.00 dolares por estudiante, pero recibira cualquier cantidad que usted pueda y quiera donar. Los fondos de PIE para Nixon seran usados en:

- **ASISTENCIA PARA LOS SALONES:** Asistentes del Maestro Especialistas en Matematicas y lectura, quienes hacen y enriquecen elproceso de ensenanza mas facil para todos los estudiantes.
- **INSTRUCCIONES DEL LABORATORIO DE COMPUTADORAS:** Sarah Patanroi, quien ensena a usar la computadora y que ofrece su conocimiento a cada uno de los estudiante.
- **DESARROLLO DEL LENGUAJE:** Maestros y traductores de Espanol,Koreano, Mandarin, Japones y Hebreo, quienes trabajan con Meghan Cox.
- **INSTRUCTORES DE ARTE:** Carla Gratta y Rebecca Gorden soon Maestras-Artistas quienes providen estudiantes con excelentes conocimientos de Arte basado en el programa Spectra.

Students Speak

This issue's question is:



Please tell us about a favorite summer experience.

U. S. (4th grade): My favorite summer experience was when I went to India and played with my cousins. We played lots of fun games and sports like cricket. We spent a lot of time laughing together and doing silly stuff. I also enjoyed spending time with my grandparents and my great grandmother who is 100 years old!

I. M. (5th grade): One of my favorite summer experiences was making and decorating cupcakes for one of my friend's sister's birthday party. The theme of the birthday party was Plants vs. Zombies (the video game). I made pea shooters, sunflowers, potato sacks and zombies from fondant, which I molded and colored to look like the characters. I was really pleased with the results and hope to make more cupcakes for friends' parties.

I. O. (1st grade): I lost my first tooth, and then I lost another one. I lost the first one at my auntie's house in England. I lost the second one at my grandma's house in Southern California.

A. O. (3rd grade): I had dessert every day at my grandmother's house. And we got to go to the Coliseum in Rome and we got to see where the Christians were thrown to the lions, which was kind of scary.

C. D. (5th grade): This summer, my family and I went on a vacation to Hawaii. One fun thing I did there was going surfing. After I had paddled out on my long board to where my instructor sat on his board, the instructor would tell me which wave to take. Right before the wave caught me, I would paddle as fast as I could. Then when the wave was under my board, I would surge forward. Then, I would stand up. Now the first couple of times I tried this, I fell off the board and ended up under the board, with a nose full of

salty seawater, wondering what had happened. Once I got better at this though, I could stand up even on the larger waves, and ride them all the way to the beach, which was 200 feet. Yahoo!!

Congratulations to **U. S.** whose name was drawn from the group of contributors this month to receive a Nixon T-shirt from the Spirit Shop. Please stop by the office to request your shirt.

For the next issue of Students Speak in September, please respond to the following question: **What do you like to do after school and why? Please share photos if you like.**

Please e-mail responses to Julie Tomz.

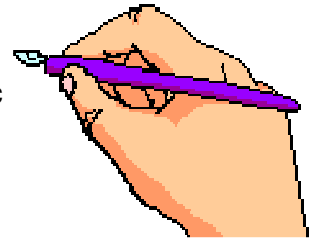
Teachers Speak

Teachers were also asked to share a favorite summer experience.

Ginna Park (1st grade teacher): I have some pretty exciting news - I got married!! I'm now Mrs. Park. We honeymooned in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Letter from the Nixon News Editor

I am delighted to present the first issue of Nixon News for the 2010-11 academic year. I am grateful for the team that will be working with me to pull this newsletter together each month – Anjana Patel, layout editor, Ashini Srivastava, e-News editor, Liz Fendorf, distribution coordinator, and Kimberly Eng Lee, website coordinator.



(Note that eNews, which is distributed by e-mail only, is distinct from the Nixon News newsletter in that it is a weekly service that reminds the community of upcoming events or urgent special announcements. While there is some overlap of information, you are highly encouraged to read BOTH eNews and the Nixon News newsletter -- and, of course, check that Friday Folder each week! -- in order to stay fully informed and engaged with our school community.)

We need the help of staff, parents, and students to make Nixon News as informative and interesting as possible!

Teachers, staff, and parents: Please let me know about activities in the classroom, library, computer lab, etc. that would be of interest to our community! Interesting items from outside Nixon are also welcome. Just a quick note or call will do – no need to write a full article (unless, of course, you want to!).

Students: We want you to have a bigger voice in Nixon News! I highly encourage you to submit a response to the question we pose each month in our Students Speak section. In addition, I would like to build a group of student reporters (mainly grade 2 and above) who would like to learn a little bit about journalism, practice their writing in a new context, and have fun! Reporters can interview staff or other individuals for a profile, report a school activity, etc. You can do one article or 10 articles during the year, whatever you're up for. Please contact me if you would like to join the student reporter staff!

Complete submission policies are posted at the Nixon school website under Nixon News. All submissions must comply with national PTA policies: non-commercial, non-sectarian, non-partisan. Deadlines will generally be the Wednesday one week before the publication date.

Thank you,
Julie Tomz

Sign up for eScrip Now! Special Promotion Ends September 14

Nixon can earn 10% of qualifying purchase amounts on thousands of products at participating businesses through the eScrip fundraising program. This special promotion started Aug. 11 and ends on Sept. 14. The top 100 schools will receive an additional \$1,000 bonus.

Please see elsewhere in Nixon News for more information about signing up for this program. It only takes a few minutes, and your regular shopping that you'd be doing anyway will send dollars straight back to Nixon. PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY!



HELP NIXON STUDENTS SEND LESS GARBAGE TO THE LANDFILL!

Last winter, a 3 bin waste system – **Compost**, **Recycling**, **Garbage** – was implemented at all PAUSD schools. The goal of the program is to decrease our negative impact on the planet by decreasing the amount of garbage that goes to the landfill while also saving the school district money by reducing garbage collection costs. Our Nixon students did a great job of adjusting to the new system, and the amount of trash we sent to the landfill decreased substantially.

As we prepare to start the new school year, we thought it would be helpful to give a brief reminder of how the system works. In the lunch areas, there are 3 waste bins: (also see other side)

COMPOST (Green Bin): food waste, paper plates, paper napkins, pizza boxes, lunch trays

RECYCLING (Blue Bin): aluminum cans, plastic bottles, milk and juice cartons/boxes

GARBAGE: (Grey Bin): juice pouches, yogurt containers, straws, plastic utensils, chip/cookies/candy/granola bar/cheese stick/fruit roll-up single-serving wrappers

What you can do to help your children reduce school lunch waste:

- Pack lunch in a reusable container.
Cloth bag, reusable paper bag, lunch box, etc.
- Pack individual lunch items in reusable containers.
Tupperware, bento box, repurposed plastic food containers
- Minimize use of single serving packages.
Buy in bulk and put single servings in reusable containers
- Pack drinks in reusable containers
Thermos, stainless steel or BPA-free plastic water bottle
If you can't, then pack drinks packaged in recyclable containers (i.e. juice boxes instead of juice pouches)
- Avoid bottled water (watch <http://storyofstuff.org/bottledwater/> with your child)
- Pack reusable utensils and cloth napkins if possible
- Reinforce the 4R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot (compost)

Thank you for helping our students reduce waste. If you are interested in helping the Nixon Green Team this year, please contact Kathy Ruppel. Here's to a less wasteful 2010-11 school year!

Recycle: Drink Containers



MILK & JUICE
CARTON



MILK & JUICE
BOX

Compost: Food & Paper Products



FOOD SCRAPS



PAPER ONLY



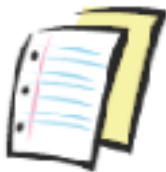
PAPER
NAPKIN



PIZZA BOX

Food from plants and animals. Paper from Trees

Recycle: Clean Paper & Plastic Bags



BUNDLED
PLASTIC
BAGS



ZIPLOC
BAGS



CARDBOARD

Landfill: Garbage



PLASTIC
CONTAINERS



JUICE
POUCHES



RUBBER
BANDS



How You Can Be a PAL to Friends Who Have Food Allergies

1 Never take food allergies lightly.

It's hard to believe that foods most of us eat and enjoy every day can be harmful to others. But it's true! So if you learn that a friend has a food allergy, take it very seriously.

That means not joking around about it, or teasing kids who have food allergies. And never try to trick someone into eating food they're allergic to!

Most of all, try to understand that people with food allergies need your help to prevent serious allergic reactions.

2 Don't share your food with friends who have food allergies.

Kids love to share or trade food with each other. But for those with food allergies, that can be very dangerous. Never offer kids with food allergies anything from your lunch or snack. Why? Because it may contain an ingredient that's harmful to them. Even if you think the food is safe, it's still not worth the risk.

3 Wash hands after eating.

Washing your hands after you eat is very important. It's a good way to clean off any food that is on your hands. You'll probably get fewer colds, too!

4 Ask what your friends are allergic to and help them avoid it.

Learning what someone is allergic to is easy. (Just ask them!) Finding out if foods are safe to eat is another story. Even foods that have ingredient labels can be tricky, since food companies sometimes use scientific names instead of everyday names. (For example, did you know that casein is milk?)

So always remind friends who have food allergies to carefully check the ingredients of foods not brought in from home. If there's any question about a food, tell them not to eat it. Doing without a snack or treat is far better than a trip to the hospital!

Here are some other ways you can help:

- Avoid eating food that contains ingredients your friend is allergic to when that friend is nearby.
- For birthday parties and celebrations, celebrate with nonfood treats and activities, like games, stickers, songs, and prizes. They're just as fun—maybe even more so—and everyone will be safe.

5 If a friend who has food allergies becomes ill, get help immediately!

How do you know when someone is having an allergic reaction? Here are some of the symptoms:

- Vomiting
- Swollen face or lips
- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing, sneezing, and watery eyes
- Skin that's bumpy, red, and itchy

If a friend who has food allergies is showing these signs, tell an adult immediately. Tell them it might be an allergic reaction. Your quickness can help save a life!

Remember, an allergic reaction can happen anytime, anywhere, even several minutes after eating. So always be on the alert.



Protect A Life™
From Food Allergies

No one knows exactly why, but more and more kids are becoming severely allergic to certain foods, especially peanuts, tree nuts (like walnuts, pecans, and almonds), milk, eggs, soy, wheat, fish, and shellfish.

Sometimes, if they eat, touch or even breathe a tiny amount of the food they're allergic to, they can become ill.

That's why kids who have food allergies need all of us to help keep them safe. You can help too and if you do a good job, you could become a PAL Hero and receive a special certificate!

Here are some of the ways you can Be A PAL and Protect A Life™ From Food Allergies.

Be A PAL Hero!

A PAL Hero is someone whose actions help prevent a serious allergic reaction, or even save a life. Your school may honor PAL Heroes with special recognition and award certificates. Someday, it might be you!

Just looking out for our friends who have food allergies, however, makes us all heroes. Save this brochure so you won't forget how to be a PAL, and Protect A Life™ From Food Allergies!



Protect A Life™
From Food Allergies

For more information about food allergies, contact
The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network
11781 Lee Jackson Hwy., Suite 160, Fairfax, VA 22033-3309
(800) 929-4040
www.foodallergy.org



Protect A Life™
From Food Allergies

NIXON ELEMENTARY ONE-CHECK REGISTRATION FORM

Please bring this form on Registration Day – Fri, 20th Aug 2010

This form is designed to save time, by enabling efficient collection of information and funds. For any queries on this form, please contact Shali _____ or Beth _____

2010-2011 Nixon PTA membership Dues are \$10 per person or \$16 per family Please do not submit my information to California State PTA <input type="checkbox"/> (Membership to the PTA makes a statement that you are involved in the school community.)	\$ _____
2011-2011 Nixon PTA Direct Appeal Donation Pays the <u>per student cost</u> of essential school materials, community events, technology and library updates etc.. These funds <u>directly benefit your child</u> at Nixon <u>this year</u> . <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to contribute the suggested amount (\$200) <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to contribute a different amount (any amount welcome) <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to sponsor _____ child/children in addition to my child (Sponsoring other children is greatly appreciated as some parents may not be in a position to contribute.)	\$ _____
Nixon Spirit Shop Please complete the attached form to place your order for Nixon logo wear and transfer your total here.	\$ _____
Nixonnames Directory \$8 per copy	\$ _____
Check total (Payable to 'NIXON PTA')	\$ _____

All items listed above are optional

Parents' Full names _____ / _____

Child's name(s) _____

Child's Grade (s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I am already receiving Nixon eNews at this email address. Yes / No

I would like to receive Nixon News at this e-mail address. Yes / No

Please keep a copy of this form. It will serve as your tax deductible receipt.

Nixon PTA Tax ID # : 77-0265022

Beyond Nixon

Parent Network for Students of Color Annual Ice-cream Social Event

Sat. Aug. 28, 2:30-4:30pm, Walter Hays Elementary School

The Parent Network invites you to join our Annual Back-to-School Ice Cream Social "On The Road to Success".

- * Learn about educational resources to help your child to succeed,
- * Explore ways to support your children as they start the new school year,
- * Reconnect with friends, meet our Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Skelly, school district representatives and other parents.

Info: Kim Bomar 868-2349

Red de Padres para Estudiantes de Color y la Comunidad Hispana los invita a participar a la Reunión Anual de Regreso a Clases "En Camino Al Éxito"
Sábado 28 de Agosto, 2010, 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Escuela Walter Hays (Esquina de Middlefield y Embarcadero)

- * Entérese de diferentes programas para ayudar a que su hijo continúe en el camino del éxito,
- * Aprenda nuevas maneras de apoyar la educación de sus hijos, en la transición del verano al año escolar,
- * Venga a disfrutar de un helado, a conocer a otros padres, a nuestro Superintendente, Dr. Kevin Skelly, y a otros representantes del distrito escolar.

Para información en español comuníquese con Paula Collins (650) 793-4726

September is Emergency Preparedness Month in Palo Alto

There are many events planned to help our community be prepared in the event of a major emergency. Some of those events are listed below:

- * Sept. 4: Greenmeadow neighborhood "show and tell" Emergency Preparedness event (with PANDA trailer)
- * Sept. 11: Quakeville -- A Barron Park pilot program for neighbors to experience what life would be like in a major disaster. Neighbors will camp out, share food and water, and find ways to keep themselves entertained. This program is designed to emphasize the importance of preparation for emergencies and to raise awareness of how relocation and setup of alternative dwellings could be accomplished if residences are no longer habitable due to structural damages.
- * Sept. 18: Safety Faire San Mateo County at USGS in partnership with the Palo Alto/Stanford Citizen Corps Council(CCC). This free faire features family

preparedness. Participants will have an opportunity to meet with the many stakeholders in preparedness. There will be give-aways, demos and lectures by USGS.

* Sept. 21: Join a new 2 hour class, Personal Preparedness, an adaption of the national "Get Ready" curriculum. Location: Friends meeting hall - 957 Colorado.

* Sept. 25: Community Disaster Drill for the Palo Alto Neighborhoods Block Preparedness Coordinator Program using CANS.

* Sept. 26: Annual Midtown Ice Cream Social – There will be a focus on emergency preparedness and getting families supplied.

* Oct. 3: Gamble Garden Community Day -- There will be a neighborhood and preparedness focus with tables for both PAN & Eprep.

* Oct. 21: Awards Ceremony and Keynote in City Council Chambers

The Oshman Family JCC New Afterschool Programs

Kids' Place & Makom Shelanu programs for grades K-6. Enjoy nutritious snacks, help with homework, and an array of enriching activities. Come embrace everything the OFJCC has to offer, from playing basketball in the gym and swimming in the pools to performing in the Theatre. Give your child a fantastic afterschool experience conducted completely in Hebrew in Makom Shelanu, their new Afternoon Hebrew Immersion Program.
Info: www.paloaltojcc.org

Put October 2 on Your Calendar for the 2010 Palo Alto Black and White Ball

The city's largest and most spectacular fundraiser, is just around the corner. Sponsored by the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation, proceeds from the Ball support Palo Alto programs and organizations such as Partners in Education (PiE), Youth Community Service (YCS), Middle School Athletics, and the Palo Alto Library Foundation. With a "Masked Ball" theme, 40+ restaurants, and music all night in three venues, this year's "creative-formal" gala promises to be an extraordinary elegant, fun, and not-to-be missed party. Special ticket rates for groups of 10 and those under 35. Info and to order tickets: ThePaloAltoBlackandWhiteBall.org.

Palo Alto Children's Theatre Mainstage Season Performances

Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield, Palo Alto

Cinderella, Nov. 3 - 13, Madeline's Christmas December 7 - 19, Ferdinand the Bull, January 25 - February

Continued on page 18

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13, Metamorphosis - A New Play Development by Betsy Franco, March 3 - 12, Charlotte's Web, Mar 31 - Apr 9, Lord of the Flies, May 19 - 28.

Auditions are for children 8 years of age through high school, unless otherwise noted.

Info: www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/csd/activities_and_recreation/attractions/childrens_theatre

Auditions for Ragazzi Boys Chorus

Aug. 30 and Sept. 1, Redwood City

The Ragazzi Boys Chorus offers a complete music education through a proven, award-winning choral program. Boys begin with one evening per week of choral singing and progress through a full course of choral/vocal and theory instruction. Ragazzi performs its own concert series, tours, and collaborates with other prestigious Bay Area arts organizations. Boys eligible to audition are between the ages of 7 and 11; no previous singing experience is required. Fall semester registration and audition times: 342-

8785, ragazzi@ragazzi.org. Flyer: palylink.paloaltopta.org/flyers/ragazzi0810.jpg. Info: <http://www.ragazzi.org/audition.htm>.

Cadette Adventures Await

Sun. Aug. 29, 2:30-5:30pm, Location provided to registered attendees

Sixth grade girls: come explore what adventures await you in Cadette Girl Scouting. Learn about travel, leadership, and award opportunities that are only available to 11-17 year old girls. It's all about fun, friends, and fantastic opportunities. This is not your sister's Brownie troop. RSVP or questions: CadetteAdventuresAwait@gmail.com

SELPA 1 CAC Parent Ed: IEPs and Legal Matters Wed. Sept. 15, 9-11 am, Covington Elementary School Multi, 205 Covington Rd, Los Altos.

Presented by education specialists Jane Floethe-Ford and Loni Allen from Parents Helping Parents. What should you do if you feel your IEP is not working? How do you establish a good working relationship with your IEP team? How do you establish need in order to get services? How do you evaluate IEP goals? How do you handle placement issues? What if you have a compliance complaint? How do dispute methods such as mediation and due process work? No registration necessary.

PAUSD Board Meeting

Tues. Sept. 14, 6:30pm

Public Hearing, relative to certification, per Ed Code §60119, that students have sufficient textbooks and/or instructional materials for 2010-11.

Auditions for Silicon Valley Boychoir

Aug. 21 and 28, First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto

SV Boychoir is an after-school choir for boys ages 6-12 rehearsing in downtown Palo Alto beginning in September. Boys will be placed in a choir level based on their skills and experience. The choirs will be taught by Julia Simon, an experienced choral director and voice teacher who specializes in training boys' voices. Auditions by appointment: 424-1242 or Julia@svboychoir.org. Info: www.SVBoychoir.org

