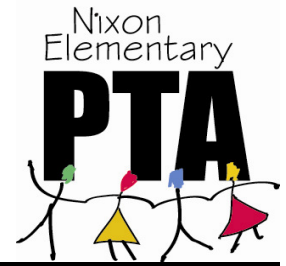


Nixon News



A Nixon PTA Newsletter September 24, 2010 Issue 2

CALENDAR

Friday, Oct. 1
PTA Executive Board Meeting
8:15 am

Thursday, Oct. 7
Walk and Roll Day

Friday, Oct. 8
Staff Development Day
NO SCHOOL

Monday, Oct. 11
Local Holiday
NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, Oct. 13
Vision testing

Coffee with Principal O'Connell
8:15 am

Oct. 19
Staff Appreciation Lunch



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

Dear Nixon Families,

Your children are falling into the rhythms of the school year and gaining comfort with the routines and procedures of their classrooms. I hope the same is happening for you at home with your family's homework, dinner and bedtime routines.

As this school year gets underway, I am thinking about our goals for your children. There has been a lot of discussion lately in the national press that has focused on student test scores. In particular, I have been reading about the push to evaluate teachers based on the annual test score gains of their students. Certainly test scores are important and we look carefully at the performance of each of our students; however, test scores are a seriously limited measure of all of our goals for our students at Nixon.

We want our students to learn to read with good comprehension and we also want them to love reading, know how to find books at an appropriate reading level and search for answers to their questions by reading. We want them to be able to calculate accurately and we also want them to approach mathematical challenges with logic and confidence, knowing that there is more than one way to solve a problem. We want our students to begin building their understanding of the natural world

through science, and we want their curiosity to grow so they ask questions and look for answers. We want our students to learn basic skills in art and music and we also want them to express themselves in art and enjoy music. We want them to develop their physical coordination and learn some sports skills and we want them to enjoy physical activity so they can find ways to stay active throughout their lives.

Like you, we have goals for our students beyond academics. We want students to be happy and want to come to school each day. We want them to develop a growth mindset so they know the importance of effort in achieving their own goals. We want them to develop the character traits that are enumerated in our Lifeskills – truthfulness, caring, cooperation, organization, perseverance, etc. We want them to develop their social skills so that they solve conflicts and develop good friendships. As a school district and a community, we want students to be on a path to enter and complete college and develop into thoughtful, participating citizens.

I feel fortunate to work in a district in a community that values far more than test scores in the education of our children and expects far more than teaching basic skills from its teachers.



Continued on page 2



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., Oct. 22

Deadline: Thurs., Oct. 14

Principal: Mary Pat O'Connell

PTA Co-Presidents:

Beth Most & Shali Miklos

Editor: Julie Tomz

Layout: Anjana Patel



Regarding stop sign at Peter Coutts and Raimundo:

Please come to full stop at this stop sign.

There are many children crossing at this crosswalk at pick up and drop off times. Several of our Nixon parents have observed, on a daily basis, cars that do not stop completely at this stop sign. Often, the cars are headed to Nixon to pick up their own children. We are very concerned by the speed of the vehicles as they approach the stop sign and even more concerned that many cars roll through the stop. Please come to a full stop at this stop sign and look VERY carefully as children who are walking or riding bikes may not be as careful as adults should be..

Most sincerely,

Mary Pat O'Connell

Principal's Corner *continued from page 1*

TRAFIC AND SAFETY UPDATE

Regarding parking on Tolman during drop-off and pick-up:

Our neighbors on Tolman have shared some of their frustrations with me.

Please do not block driveways when you park on Tolman. This seems like common sense, but several neighbors have found themselves unable to get out of their driveway in the morning.

Please do not use driveways to turn

around on Tolman. The street connects at both ends to Raimundo so it is easy to go out in either direction. Homeowners do not like cars using their driveways to turn around.

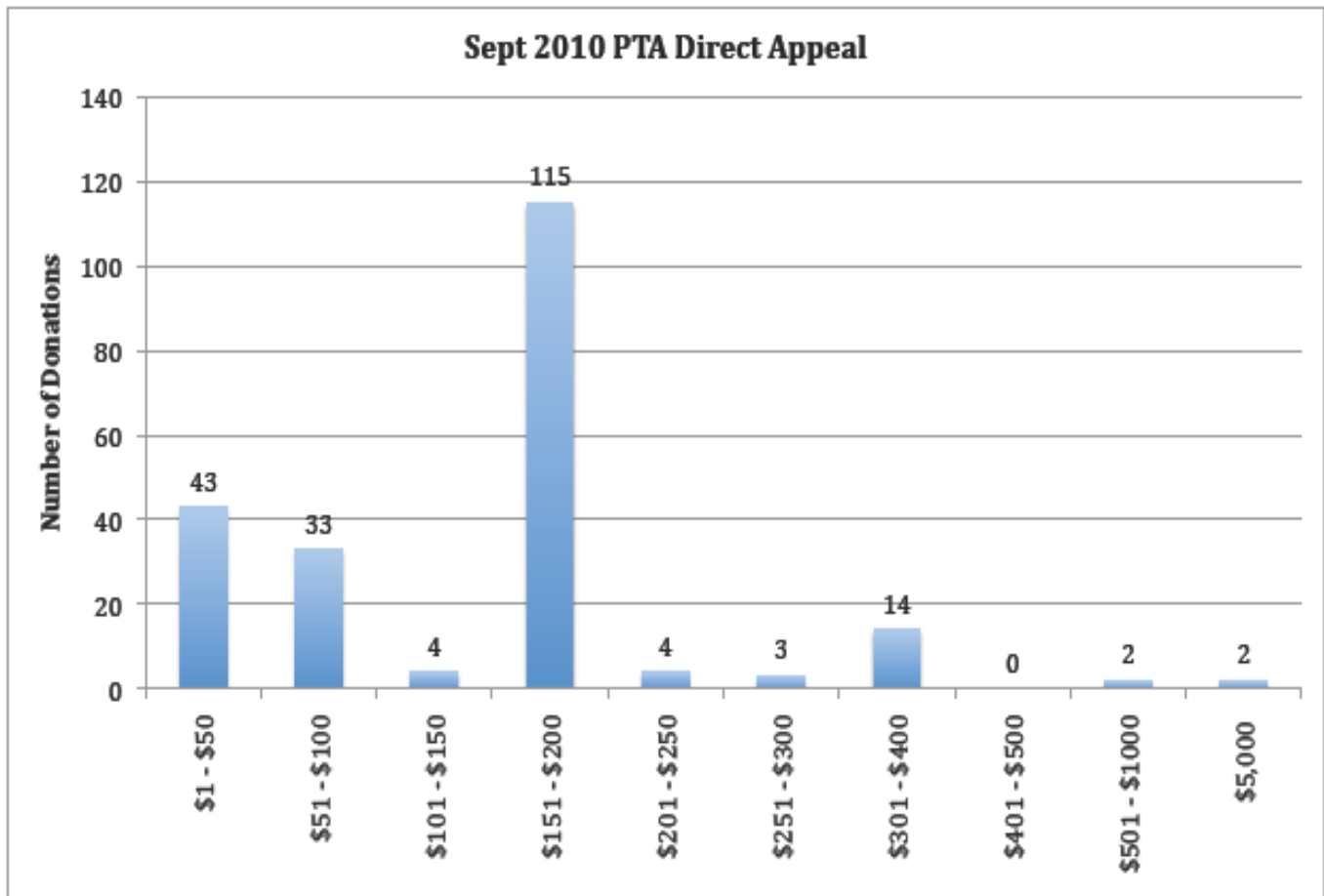


Because Tolman is part of Stanford's faculty housing area, the homeowners on the street can choose to limit parking on Tolman to those with Stanford housing permits only. This would present a major challenge for us, so it is very important that we work with the neighbors. Isn't this what we are trying to teach our students...to be considerate of others, to cooperate and solve problems for mutual benefit?

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

Dear Nixon Families,

Congratulations, you did it! This year we requested support from you in the form of a direct donation to the Nixon PTA. We have been overwhelmed by your response, and we are so very grateful for your generosity. We wanted to share with you just how widespread participation was this year.



220 Nixon Families (63%) Gave to the PTA Direct Appeal Totaling \$ 47,503.00

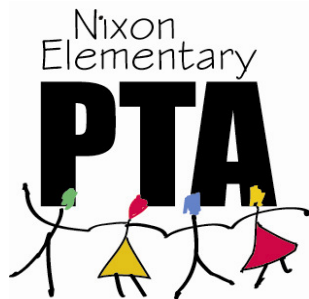
Thanks to you, we can continue to provide teacher minifunds, instructional school supplies, teacher grants, and library and technology support. In addition, here is the really great news: **NO MORE PTA FUNDRAISING FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR.** Instead, you have given us the ability to focus on community events, student support, home to school communication, and all of the other aspects of PTA that make it such an integral part of Nixon. Moreover, this year we will be able to make a significant contribution to Nixon by providing something special for the school from the principal's and teachers' wish list. For instance, last year the PTA focused on updating the Nixon library, which sorely needed attention.

Did you notice our new PTA logo at the top of Nixon News? Please look for this logo at all of the wonderful events that are brought to you by the Nixon PTA,

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

such as the Back to School Picnic, which we hope you all enjoyed. We look forward to seeing you at the next Principal's Coffee, at 8:15 on October 13.



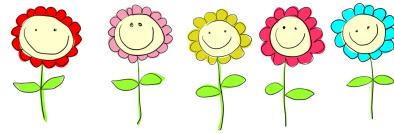
We hope that your first month of school has gone smoothly. We would like to thank all of the PTA volunteers who have helped with the transition to a new school year. Events such as back to school registration, the back to school picnic and the new families coffee would not happen without our dedicated PTA volunteers. We would also like to recognize Kathy Gurtner and Kelly Mahoney - we are grateful for both their partnership and all of their work as our PiE representatives. Finally, we would also like to thank Principal Mary Pat O'Connell and our Nixon staff for their support as we begin the year.

With warm regards,

Shali Miklos & Beth Most

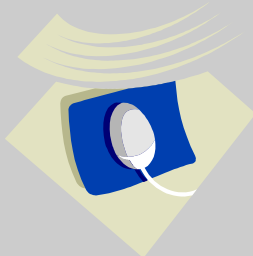
PTA Co-Presidents

Thank You!



Please join the PTA in thanking the following volunteers for their help in getting our school year off to a great start. (Apologies if we inadvertently left anyone out!)

**KIM BOMAR
KIM GRIMM
SARIKA PANDEY
JACQUELINE PHAM
NEERAJA KHAMBAM
SOPHIA MAH
JO MARCUS
ATHINA PEIOU-QUAKE
KATRIN RICHTER
LIZ FENDORF
MARINA D'ARRIGO
VAN COLE
THERESA CHUNG
ANN XU
PATRICIA GARIC
KATIE TALBOT
KELLY MAHONEY**



Need information about what's going on at Nixon? Then checkout...

www.nixon.pausd.org

Green Team

by Kathleen Ruppel

Student Assembly: Students Learn About Protecting Our Watershed

On Friday, September 1, students attended an assembly about the importance of protecting and preserving our watershed. Using musical instruments from all over the world (many made from recycled material), the ecology education group ZunZun presented “The Musical Watershed,” an interactive musical show that taught our students about watershed awareness and the importance of clean water to our environment. During the assembly, which was sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Program, students sang and danced to “The Water Dance,” did the limbo, and then cheered as their teachers danced as well. They learned the difference between storm drains (goes straight to the Bay) and sewer drains (water is processed before going to the Bay), and why it’s important to keep oil, soap, paint, and household chemicals from going down the storm drains. They were also reminded how important it is to reduce, reuse, and recycle in order to keep waste out of our watershed. Principal O’Connell then reminded the students about our 3 bin waste system and how important it is that each and every student sorts his or her waste appropriately.

*This program brought to you by
the Nixon PTA.*



Recycling/Compost Update

In general, our students have started out the school year doing a good job of sorting their lunch waste. However, we have had a few problems with too much food waste going into the recycling containers, usually in the form of nearly full milk or juice cartons. That has caused our sanitation company to occasionally refuse our recycling, which means it winds up going to the landfill! To make things simpler, we are now asking the students to put only cans and bottles in the blue recycling containers. Milk and juice cartons should go in the green compost bins. Juice boxes and juice pouches need to go in the gray garbage bins. These changes were explained to our students at the recent Watershed assembly. Please help them by packing (or helping them to pack) a waste-free lunch – if lunch beverages are brought in a thermos or stainless steel water bottle, students can avoid this confusion altogether!

Nixon Elementary Electronic Waste Recycling Event on Nov. 13

Do you have unused/broken/obsolete computer and electronic equipment sitting at home? How about cables, CDs, mice, VCRs, or VCR tapes? Bring them to Nixon on Saturday, November 13th (also the last day of the Nixon Book Fair) to have them recycled. We are partnering with Earthcare Recycling to hold an electronic waste

recycling event that will help educate our students and families about the growing problem of electronic waste and what can be done about it, as well as provide a service to the community by making a convenient one-stop recycling drop-off of a wide variety of electronic items. Plus the event will raise funds for Nixon! Tell your friends and neighbors. For a complete list of recyclable items, see: <http://www.earthcarerecycling.com/>
www.earthcarerecycling.com/Items.html

EVERY CHILD IS A REASON TO GIVE

Wow, what a hectic time the start of school is for everyone! By now, hopefully, the initial mad rush to get all necessary forms filled out, school equipment bought and a well-informed, healthy student off to school every day should be well in hand and under control. At this time, we would ask you to reflect upon the donation forms you saw in your initial school packets for PiE. For those that have already contributed please accept our warmest thanks and for those that haven't, please take a look at where the dollars from contributions are used and how these dollars make such a difference in positively impacting your child as a student. Please, if you are able, take the time to make your contribution to PiE.

We are not asking you to give until it hurts, please give until it feels right!

每個孩子，都是一個捐贈的理由

哇，開學的日子是多麼的繁忙！家長們瘋狂地填寫表格；購置學習用品；還要把小朋友們每天健康康，頭腦清悉地送上學。現在，大家想必已經應付自如了。在剛開學領到的大信封裏，有幾份有關PiE（教育共同合作）的表格。在這個時候，請您取出來審閱和思考。對於那些已經捐款的家庭，請接受我們最誠摯的感謝。同時，希望那些還沒有來得及捐款的家庭，能夠抽空研究一下PiE捐款的用途，以及這些捐款對您的孩子在學校學習上的積極影響。如果你有能力，請向PiE捐款。

跟著你的感覺走，做出最快樂的捐贈！

すべての子供たちに援助を

いよいよ新学期がはじまり、皆さん大変忙しくされていることと思います。それとも、もう当初の慌しい時期は過ぎて、必要書類はすべて記入され、学用品・文房具もきちんと準備されて、子供たちは新しい学年・クラスにも慣れて毎日通っているのでしょうか。この時期に、ぜひ新学年開始時の配布資料の中に含まれている、PiE向けの寄付フォームをご覧ください。既にご寄付いただいた皆様には、厚く御礼を申し上げます。寄付はまだこれから、という皆様には、集まった寄付がどのように活用され、子供たちにどんないい影響を生み出しているのか、ぜひ資料をご覧ください。そしてもし可能ならば、どうかPiEに対する援助をお願いします。

無理をしていただく必要はありません。

どうか皆さんが「正しいことをした」と感じられるだけのご協力をお願いします。

We sincerely appreciate the Nixon parents that have translated messages for PiE. It is our goal to make all families feel included at Nixon. We are working together for a better education for all of our children as we endure California budget cuts.

Learn More about **Partners in Education** and ways to give:
http://www.papie.org/03_Donate/WaysToGive.html

Playing with Isaac Newton at Recess: Noon Science Begins

By Carolina Albers

We are off to a great start this year! Approximately 40 kids joined us in the theatre on Wednesday, September 15, to kick off Noon Science with our newly discovered friend, Isaac Newton. We learned that Newton was an English physicist (among many other amazing things) who loved to think about how our world works. He came up with the Three Laws of Motions, and the Noon Science group explored the First Law: "An object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force."

We tested Newton's first law by doing an easy experiment with eggs. We took one hard-boiled egg and one uncooked egg. We spun the hard-boiled egg on a smooth table. Then we stopped the egg and then let it go right away. □ We then spun the uncooked egg on the table, stopped it and then let it go right away. It was great fun to watch what happened when you let go of the eggs. Can you guess? The uncooked egg spun a little even after we stopped it. **Newton's first law** explains why: when an object is moving, it tends to continue moving at the same speed unless acted upon by an outside force. When you stop the uncooked egg, you stop the shell—the yolk and white are not attached to the shell so they keep moving.

We continued to explore Newton's first law by discussing everyday applications for it, such as what happens when you suddenly move a cup filled to the rim with juice or what happens if you hit a curb or rock while riding a bike, abruptly stopping the motion of the skateboard. Kids went home with a few notes on the experiments and an idea for something to try at home. Ask your child to show you their newly discovered mastery of physics! Our next Noon Science will be September 29.

This program brought to you by the Nixon PTA.

Nixon Student Trying to Teach Pet Rats to Read

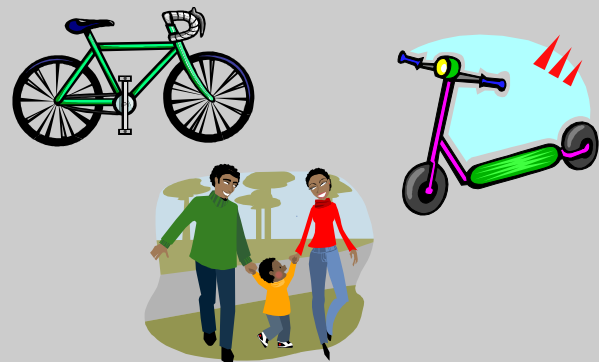
By M.K-F, 3rd Grade

I have two pet rats. They are very cute and smart too. Their names are Vanilla and Sushi. I'm trying to teach them how to read. I know it sounds impossible, but I read in a National Geographic magazine that a dog learned to read. What happens is you teach them the commands (which Vanilla and Sushi already know) and then you hold the paper in front of them and then say the command. Then they learn to associate the writing with the card, and soon they can do it without you saying the command.



Photo taken by M. and edited by N. K-F, 5th grade.

Walk and Roll Day Coming Up on October 7



Nixon will be having "Walk and Roll" day on Thursday, October 7th. On this day, all children are encouraged to walk, ride a bike, scooter, tricycle etc. or carpool or take the bus to school. Please participate to get some exercise, have fun, and "spare the air" and who knows . . . it just might become a habit!

Staff Profile: *Becky Brewer, School Secretary*

Interview conducted by Student Reporter Anna Tomz, 3rd Grade

Position: School Secretary

Number of years in position: 10

What do you like about this position? I love being with children, and I especially love all the people I work with. The families are very supportive and kind.

How long have you lived in this area? Most of my life. I was born here, and I went to Walter Hays, Jordan, and Paly.

Where else have you lived? I lived in San Diego during college and for a few years afterwards. I've also traveled a lot with my husband when he played professional baseball. He played for the Dodgers and also in Japan for the Nippon Ham Fighters.

Please tell us about your family. My husband, Tony, coaches wrestling at Paly and baseball through American Legion. We've known each other since high school. I have two children -- Sisley, who just turned 21, and Gabe, who is almost 23. Gabe just starting doing yard duty at Nixon this year! Sisley is a mentor at James Flood School.

Please tell us about any pets you have. We have one dog, a rescue. She's a mixed breed but looks like a Rottweiler. She's black and brown. Her name is Jada, and she loves kids.

What do you like to do in your free time? Garden and ride my bike. And shop for shoes! *(NOTE: The photo with this profile was taken at a shoe store in Paris!)*

What kind of music do you like? Mostly R&B and jazz.

What is your favorite food? Cheese and bread. I like all cheeses and all breads!

Do you have any advice for Nixon students? Enjoy school and your friends, but especially, have fun!

Don't Be Left Out! Get Your Contact Info Into Nixon Directory

Work has begun on putting together the Nixonnames school directory. If you did not turn in your completed form at registration and would like to have your family contact information appear in the directory (great for setting up play dates, birthday parties, etc.), please turn in your completed form to the Nixon PTA drawer (Attention Liz Fendorf). The deadline for forms is Thursday, September 30th.

This program brought to you by the Nixon PTA.

Students Speak

This issue's question is:

What do you like to do after school, and why?

E. U., 3rd grade: Drawing and swimming, because I like doing those things.

M. S., 3rd grade: I like to play on the 4th and 5th grade playgrounds, because it is fun.

N. K., 1st grade: I love to read books because books are interesting and they teach me how to read. The books I am reading now are: Magic Tree House "Dark Day in the Deep Sea," "Curious George," and "Charlotte's Web." I also like to read "Uncle Elephant" because I can read it by myself. I also like to swim and play with my brother and sister.

O. M., K: After school I like to go to my swimming lessons. I love to jump off the side of the swimming pool and my teacher catches me. She helps me practice floating on the water. Also, I like using the floating barbells. My teachers says I kick so fast that I look like a motor boat.

Congratulations to **E. U.** 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, please respond to the following question:

When you're upset or worried, what do you do to help yourself feel better?

Please e-mail responses to Julie Tomz.

Teacher and Staff Speak

Teachers were also asked about what they like to do after school.

Mary Blazensky, 5th grade teacher: I like to swim, run the dish and plan yummy dinners, because it relaxes me.

Martha Waterhouse, 4th grade teacher: I like to go on bike rides and run because I like to exercise outdoors. I like to play with my son and two kittens, because they are so cute. I also like to help my son, E., with his homework, because it is fun for me to see homework in different grades.

Britt Brown, 4th grade teacher: I like to hike with friends and go to the gym. I love to play with my children – H., who is four, and S., who is 9 months. It helps remind me about being a child.

Kristina Hayes, 3rd grade teacher: I like going on walks with my brother's two dogs, because it is relaxing and I enjoy the fresh air. I enjoy going to the Farmers Market for fresh food. I also love to read for enjoyment.

Sarah Patanroj, Computer Lab teacher: I like to read and tinker with technology, photos, websites and try new things.

Janice Mulholland, Librarian: I like to take my dog for a walk because we both need the exercise.

Responses obtained by Student Reporters I. M. and A. T.

Are You Seeing Double? If So, Let Nixon News Know!

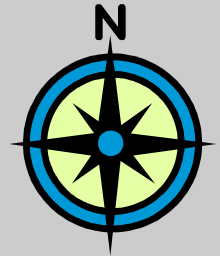
In order to reduce our printing costs, as well as save trees, we print just one copy of the Nixon News for each family. Only the youngest child in each family should bring home a copy. If your family receives multiple copies of the Nixon News, please contact Liz Fendorf.

This program brought to you by the Nixon PTA.

Classroom Happenings:

From 4th grade teacher Kevin Stevens:

Mike Chu, a Nixon father and Google employee who helped put the “maps” application on the iPhone... joined us to share his knowledge and expertise about maps and geography. He spoke about everything from what a map is to the history of maps to how we can make our own maps using Google Maps. The kids were engaged and had a blast during the presentation, listening carefully and asking questions all throughout.



From 4th grade teachers Lena Grodin and Britt Brown:



As an introduction to our environments unit, the children created their own micro-environments. They added soil and seeds (corn, peas, barley, radish, and clover) to a plastic container. After watering the soil, the containers were sealed with plastic wrap to simulate the water cycle within these self-contained terrariums. It was fascinating to see how much our little seeds have grown in just a matter of days! The students' excitement was palpable, as they observed their micro-environments. Student observation led to gorgeous scientific drawings detailing each of the plants, the roots, and the soil. Up next: we will introduce some critters to our little environments (isopods and darkling beetles) to observe and study the relationship between plants and animals.



Classroom Funnies...

Nixon News introduces a new feature about funny stories from the classroom. Please send us an e-mail about something funny that happened in your classroom! (Teachers and students welcome to submit short, kind-hearted stories.)

Sarah Patanroi, Computer Lab teacher:

One day, a 1st grader was maneuvering the mouse a little awkwardly. So I asked if he was left handed.

He pointed at his right hand and said: "No, I'm this handed!"

Help Your Fellow Nixon Students and Families by Understanding Severe Peanut Allergies

By Athina Peiou-Quake, Nixon parent

Peanut allergies, including severe peanut allergies, have increased in school-age children. To help ensure the safety of all our children, it is very important that we all try to avoid inadvertently triggering an allergic reaction.

Kids with peanut allergies do not have to eat peanuts to get sick. Any exposure can cause an allergic reaction, and exposure to peanuts can happen any of the following ways:

- Direct contact with peanut products, such as eating or touching peanuts;
- Cross contact with peanuts, such as exposure to items containing trace amounts of peanuts or peanut oil (for example, snacks packaged on the same equipment or in the same factory as peanuts); or
- Inhalation of peanut dust.

For a child who is allergic to peanuts, the reaction to peanut exposure can be severe and swift. In some cases, a child might suffer anaphylactic shock, in which the child's airway swells shut and the child's blood pressure plummets. This reaction requires immediate medical attention and can result in death.

Here are some tips that will help you reduce the risk of accidental peanut exposure:

- Do not bring peanuts or peanut-containing products to school (this includes peanut butter and foods prepared in peanut oil);
- Have your child wash his or her hands and face and brush their teeth before school if they have eaten any peanut products at home;
- Wash your hands before and after eating or handling food that contains peanuts;
- Plan for safe parties and classroom projects, avoiding peanuts and peanut-containing products;
- Read food labels for food allergy warnings, including listing peanuts (or peanut oil or peanut flour) as an ingredient, or stating "processed in a factory that shares equipment with peanuts" or "processed on equipment shared with peanuts;"
- Discourage food trading and sharing among students;
- Explore alternatives to peanut butter and granola snacks, like fruits, veggies and sunflower butter.
- When in doubt, avoid questionable foods.

The goal is to provide a healthy, safe, inclusive environment for all to learn.

Source: Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network

Peanut Free Shopping



Peanut Free Shopping

As of September 2010

Please read labels as processes do change but when this brochure was written these products were believed to be safe. For comments and additions to this flyer please contact: athina@yaboo.com

PEANUT FREE SHOPPING

This flyer provides examples of foods & snacks that parents could send to school to be consumed around students suffering from peanut and nut allergies.

WARNING

ALWAYS READ FOOD LABELS AND NUTRITION INFORMATION CAREFULLY, EVERY TIME, AS MANUFACTURERS AND RESTAURANTS MAY CHANGE INGREDIENTS AND/OR PROCESSING TECHNIQUES. ALWAYS INTRODUCE NEW FOODS TO SOMEONE WITH A FOOD ALLERGY IN SMALL DOSES AND IN CONTROLLED SITUATIONS WHERE PROPER EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE IS AVAILABLE SHOULD AN ALLERGIC REACTION OCCUR. THE FLYER AND ITS AUTHORS MAKE NO STATEMENT OR GUARANTEE THAT THESE FOODS ARE SAFE TO EAT FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE ALLERGIC TO PEANUTS OR ANY OTHER FOOD ALLERGEN.

TRADER JOE'S

Miscellaneous

Trader Joes Whole Wheat Honey Bread

Snacks

- Dare* Vinten Crackers
- Trader Joes Organic 100% Natural Fruit Wrap (i.e. fruit leather strips)
- Trader Joes Organic Wheat and Flaxseed Bite sized Crackers
- Trader Joes Pita Bite Crackers
- Trader Joes Pita Chips
- Trader Joes Vegetable Bite sized Crackers
- Trader Joes Wheat Crisps
- Trader Joes Woven Wheat Wafers

In the refrigerated case

- Stonefield Farm Smoothies (i.e. yogurt smoothie drinks)
- Trader Joes String Cheese
- Yo Kids Squeezer (i.e. yogurt tubes)

SAFEWAY

Breads

- O Organic 100% Whole Grain Wheat Grace Baking

Dried Fruit

(Note: NOT yogurt coated dried fruit)

- Manani Dried Cherries
- O Organics Dried Fruits:
 - Raisins
 - Dates
 - Apricots
- Sunmaid Dried Fruits:
 - Pineapple
 - Figs
 - Raisin
 - Apricots
 - Cranberry and Raisin

Submitted by Athina Peiou-Quake, Nixon parent

Project Safety Net

The Project Safety Net Committee, a group of school and community members who came together to address the crisis our community recently faced, has developed a set of recommendations to increase the support of youth and teens in Palo Alto. One suggestion for the schools is to implement community wide, the Project Cornerstone 41 Developmental Assets framework, originally pioneered by the nonprofit Search Institute of Minnesota. To start the implementation, a survey will be given to 5th, 7th and 9-12th graders. This survey, which is administered *once every five (5) years*, will measure students' attitudes, behaviors, and developmental assets. Developmental assets are those positive values, relationships and experiences that help young people succeed and thrive. The results will provide a benchmark for our community showing how well we support the healthy development of our children and youth. The survey requires parent consent and a copy can be found in the school office. For questions about the surveys please contact Amy Drolette, Director Student Services, at adrolette@pausd.org.

The Developmental Assets framework identifies 41 essential elements for supporting the health, resiliency, and overall well-being of youth within their communities. Research shows a significant correlation between higher numbers of assets and positive indicators, such as school performance and resiliency, and lower numbers of assets and increased risk-taking behaviors such as drug and alcohol use. The framework has been adopted by the Palo Alto Unified School District, the City, YMCA, Youth Community Services and many other youth-serving agencies. You can find more information about the Developmental Assets at <http://www.projectcornerstone.org/html/assets/index.htm>

In order for you to learn more about the Developmental Assets framework, the Palo Alto Council of PTAs is presenting a parent education program that will give you an **overview** of the assets and the value of the survey results for our community.

Additionally, a three-hour parent and community education program, called Assets 101, will go into more depth about the assets and how we can help our kids acquire them. For those community members who are ready to become assets builders in the community, you are invited to attend a six-week training program. Dates and times for these programs are listed below.

By attending any of these events and getting involved, you can join us as we build a stronger community of caring adults who are willing to engage with all youth and teens. This work is critical for our community to provide the support our kids need. Your time will not only be of benefit to your family, but to every family in Palo Alto and surrounding communities.

September 16, 11am- 2pm– Assets 101 - Lucie Stern - Ballroom

Assets 101 will introduce parents and community members to the Developmental Assets framework and discuss strategies to intentionally reposition our interactions with youth.

September 22, 7-9pm, SDC at 25 Churchill: “From Crisis to Long Term Strategy... Developmental Assets—A Community Framework for Helping Youth Thrive” –

A panel presentation to introduce the Developmental Assets framework which has been adopted by the school district, the City, and community agencies to support the health, resiliency, and overall well-being of our youth. Learn about the upcoming school survey which will measure student attitudes, behaviors and assets. Become an asset builder for your child.

Saturday, 10/9 (9am- 12pm) – Assets 101 -Lucie Stern – Ballroom

Repeat of above program on the 16th.

Wednesday, October 13 – 11/17 (7:00 – 8:30 pm), 2010, 7-9pm Palo Alto Family MCA – 3412 Ross Road: 6-week Asset Champion Training Series

Take It Personally! Become an asset champion for all youth in our community. This 6-week series provides a comprehensive overview of the 41 developmental assets and training in asset building strategies for your family, neighborhood and community

Cost \$10/per participant for workbook.

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A group called Project Cornerstone will be helping us with these education efforts. They are a non-profit based in San Jose that has helped multiple neighboring communities implement the Developmental Assets programs

Please contact the PTA Council at health@paloaltopta.org for more information and dates regarding Palo Alto's roll out of the 41 Developmental Assets framework.

Information about Project Safety Net can be found at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=22816>.

Project Runway Wannabes: 5th Grade Class of 2011 T-shirt Design Contest is Here

By Amy Ogawa



The Annual Nixon 5th Grade Class T-Shirt Contest is here!

The contest is a Nixon tradition in which the 5th grade class creates and selects their own design for their Class of 2011 T-shirt. They all can wear the T-shirt to their 5th grade field trips and for Spirit Days throughout the year.

Please submit a Nixon Class of 2011 T-Shirt design, which will be voted on by the 5th grade classes the week of Sept. 27. All designs must be submitted to your teachers by Sept 27.

The person whose design is selected will win a \$10 Jamba Juice Gift Card and also get their design in the Class of 2011 yearbook.

The design will go on the FRONT of the T-Shirt. The back of the T-shirt will have a collage of the students' signatures, also a tradition. The 5th grade T-shirt will be royal blue with white design. The design should identify the Class of 2011 and Nixon.

The design should be on an white 8 1/2" x 11" paper in black ink (preferably black sharpee, as thicker lines work better for the screening). Hand-drawn, computer graphics, or mixed media is acceptable. Digital files may also be submitted/emailed to your teacher and to amy.ogawa@yahoo.com. Please contact Amy Ogawa with any questions.

Price per shirt; \$10.00 available in sizes Youth L, Adult S, M, L & XL. Orders due in class by Friday, October 1st. Please make check payable to Nixon PTA. T-shirt order forms will be available in the classroom.

Please order now! The T-shirts will be ready in time for the Monterey Bay Aquarium field trip in October.

Beyond Nixon:

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 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

Sign-up Day for Free or Low Cost Health Insurance

Sun. Sept. 26, 1-4pm, Rengstorff Community Center, Rm #3, 201 S. Ringstorff Ave, Mountain View.

Presented by the School Outreach Collaboratives, Children's Health Initiatives, Santa Clara County, residents of Santa Clara County only may apply for free or low cost health insurance for children and adults. Proof of residence, proof of income, and child's birth certificate are needed and optional request for a child's social security number.

Info: 1-877-680--2566.

Saturday, September 25: California Coastal Clean-up Day

Join more than 80,000 fellow volunteers as they collect more than a million pounds of trash and recyclables from our beaches, lakes, and waterways. There are opportunities to clean up our local watershed (San Francisquito, Adobe, or Matadero creeks; see <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html>), or you can head to the coast and help clean up a beach in Half Moon Bay, Pescadero, or San Gregorio (<http://www.flowstobay.org/>

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html#SantaClara>). If you can't participate tomorrow, check out the event schedule for COAST WEEKS to find a clean up activity in the coming weeks (<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html#SantaClara>).

Sunday, October 10: 10/10/10 Global Work Day "A Day to Celebrate Climate Solutions"

Join in as more than 1077 groups in over 100 countries around the world set up Global workday parties to address global warming in their cities and communities (<http://www.350.org/invitation>). Many local events are in the planning stages (<http://www.350.org/map>). Engage in fun, family oriented green activities like beeswax molding, bee house building, worm composting, knitting, or felting wool (<http://www.350.org/time-oil-change-green-activities-parents-and-kids>). Participate in Bike Palo Alto!, an event in the College Terrace neighborhood that features bike safety information, Palo Alto bike maps, and a bike ride and scavenger hunt (<http://www.350.org/bike-palo-alto>), or collect acorns for planting on the Stanford campus (<http://www.350.org/350-acorns>).

Rummage sale to Benefit Escondido Spanish Immersion 5th Grade Trip

Saturday, Sept. 25 8:30-2:30 PM

Escondido School

890 Escondido Road at the corner of Stanford Ave.

Gardening tools, furniture, kitchenware, toys, small electronics and sporting goods and more. Rummage Sale fundraiser for Spanish Immersion 5th grade El Molino, Mexico trip. If you have any questions, please contact the coordinator, Julie Wilcox, by phone 650-576-1846.

Snapshot Day: One Day in the Life of California Libraries

Mon. Oct. 4, Photo deadline Mon. Sept. 27.

The Palo Alto City Library will participate in this statewide event, and will gather customer comments, photographs and statistics on that day to show how the community uses the library on a typical day. The Library is holding a photo contest for customers' best photos depicting what the Library means to them. Entry forms are available at Palo Alto library branches and www.cityofpaloalto.org/library. Contest winners in Adult, Teen and Kids categories will be announced at the Library Open House on Oct. 4, Children's Library 3-5pm, Mitchell Park Library 4-6pm, Main Library 6-8pm. Anyone who cannot visit a Palo Alto library branch on Oct. 4 is invited to visit the library website and use the library's online resources on that day. Info: www.cityofpaloalto.org/library, 329-2436.

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Japan Tsuchiura Sister City Festival

Sun. Oct. 10, 10am-4 pm, Lucie Stern Community Center, Palo Alto.

Neighbors Abroad and the City of Palo Alto present this Festival to celebrate Palo Alto's Sister City relationship with Tsuchiura, Japan, which began in March 2009, and to share Japanese culture with visitors. The city of Tsuchiura will be sending a team of Kappore dancers and a Zen Master as the core of this exchange. Also featured will be a Taiko drum team, tea ceremonies, martial art ceremonies, and a mini-anime festival.

Info, tea ceremony and meditation session sign-ups, and anime and cosplay contest entry forms can be found at www.neighborsabroad.org/JapanFestival.

Co-ed Celebrity Soccer Match to Honor Brandi Chastain

Sat. Oct. 2, 6pm, Pre-game clinic, 4pm, Buck Shaw Stadium, Santa Clara.

Female soccer icon Brandi Chastain--best known for her game-winning penalty kick again China in the 1999 Women's World Cup--will be honored in a Testimonial Soccer Match on Oct. 2. Game participants will include Brandi Chastain, Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, Joy Fawcett, Tisha Venturini, Eric Wynalda, Leslie Osborne, Aly Wagner, Tiffeny Milbrett, Brent Jones, Bode Miller, Cindy Parlow, Nomar Garciaparra, Tab Ramos, Marcelo Balboa, Giovanni Savarese, Danielle Slaton, Sissi, Chris Amas, Eric Lagopoulos, Kelly Lindsey, and others. Tony DiCicco (Former USWNT coach) and Jerry Smith (Head Coach SCU Women's Soccer and Chastain's husband) will serve as team coaches. At the game, Brandi will launch her new Reach Up! foundation, aimed to inspire young girls to make healthy choices. Gently used soccer gear will be collected and donated through a partnership with US Soccer foundation. Groups can buy tickets using the discount code SAVE.

info, including ticket purchase: www.reachupworld.com.

Stanford Email Newsletter, Stanford For You

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Be the Change Day 2010

Sat. Oct. 2, 9am-1pm.

HandsOn Bay Area will mobilize 1000 volunteers in 17 different service projects all around the Bay Area. The projects in close proximity to Palo Alto are at Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto, Full Circle Farm in Sunnyvale, Sacred Heart Community Services in San Jose, and Emma Prusch Farm Park in San Jose. Sign up/ Info: www.bethechangeday.org, or naomi@hoba.org.

The 15th Annual Great Glass Pumpkin Patch® 2010

Tues. Sept. 28 - Sun. Oct. 3, Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto.

Exhibition: Tues. and Wed. 10am-9pm., Thurs. and Fri. 10am-4pm, Sale: Sat.-Sun. 10am-5pm.

The Largest Glass Pumpkin Patch in California features 8,000 hand-blown glass pumpkins crafted by 30 prominent glass artisans. Free

Admission. Info: www.greatglasspumpkinpatch.com.

New in 2010 - Glassblowing demonstrations at Palo Alto High School showcase the talents of students, school-alumni and professional glass artists from BAGI and GGPP. The public is invited to attend this exciting event Wed., Sept. 29, 4-7pm at the campus Glass Studio, Room 105, 50 Embarcadero Road.