



NIXON NEWS

Nixon PTA Newsletter—Vol. 2006-2007 Issue No. 15—May 18, 2007
The L.M. Nixon Elementary School, 1711 Stanford Ave., Stanford, CA 94305 (650) 856-1622
<http://www.nixon.pausd.org>

Arts Around the World and Silent Auction Tonight 5:00-7:30 p.m.

To Do List:

- Attend Arts Around the World and Silent Auction Tonight!
 - Volunteer for Nixon's PTA. Page 5.
 - Participate in the book exchange. Page 2.
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CALENDAR

Tues. May 22
Wildlife Assembly

Wed. May 23
Terman Social—5th Graders
Invited. 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Thurs. May 24
AAAG Meeting, 25 Churchill
6:00 p.m.

Fri. May 25
5th Grade Walk thru
American Revolution
Assembly, 8:15 a.m.

Mon. May 28
Memorial Day
No School

Thurs. May 31
PTA Volunteer Luncheon
11:45 a.m.

Thurs. May 31
AAAG Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Final announcements for the Nixon Silent Auction:

1. Please bring donated items to the Nixon Theater between 4:00-5:00 p.m. - auction volunteers will receive them from you.
2. The Silent Auction will run from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Make a plan at home with your catalog, bid between 5:00-7:00 p.m. by signing in, and check back often to bid higher, if necessary!
3. We will announce final bids at 7:00 p.m.
4. Remember to bring a checkbook to pay and pick up your prize.
5. Lastly, remember that this is money well-spent: items usually go for less than real value, donations are tax-deductible, and every penny goes to the Nixon PTA and your child's education!!

Principal's Corner *by Barbara Welch*

Dear Nixon Families,

Today, my letter is going to be brief and look like a "To Do List." At this time of year, I live by lists like this:

- Mark my calendar and attend the Volunteer Luncheon on May 31.
- Check the Lost and Found at the front of the computer lab. All clothes will be donated in June to the PTA Wardrobe.
- Remember the kindergarten Orff performance on June 4 for kinder parents.
- The 4th and 5th grade music program for parents is on June 6 at 8:45 a.m.
- Vote for new Site Council members.
- Order my child's school supplies for next year by June 12.

Thank you all for attending our *Arts Around the World* evening and generously supporting our students and programs through the Silent Auction. The primary purpose of this evening each year is to build community and enjoy each other's company. I think we are doing a great job. This evening could not have enjoyed the success it did without the parents and teachers who worked behind the scenes to feed us, entertain us, fundraise, display our children's art, set up, and clean up.

Your continual support is appreciated.

Barbara

Se puede encontrar una edición de *Nixon News* en español en la oficina general de la escuela. Favor de avisar a Gabriela Balas si usted desea añadir su nombre a la lista de distribución.

PTA President's Message by Leslie Fiedler

The school year is quickly coming to an end. STAR tests have come and gone, tonight is our World Arts celebration and Auction. The annual volunteer luncheon is coming up May 31, after the Memorial Day long weekend, and our children will be finishing up the last of their big projects and book reports. A number of upcoming music performances are scheduled: the Orff kindergartners will be performing for their families June 4, and the 4th & 5th grade students will have their big end-of-the year concert on June 6. There are many other important events that Barbara Welch covered in *Principal's Corner* of this issue, so please don't miss reading about them.

Finally, I wanted to introduce you to our newly-elected PTA Executive Board members, who already are making plans for next year's events and projects. We are so fortunate to have such a talented and experienced group of parents to lead our PTA efforts, and I hope that you will have a chance to get to know these people in the coming year. Here is the list of the 2007-08 PTA Executive Board Members:

President:	Gioia Allegretti
Executive Vice President:	Suzie Lincoln
VP-Student Programs:	Nazila Alasti
VP-Family Programs:	Jo Marcus
VP-Fundraising:	Daisy Zook
VP-Communications:	Vicki Dempsey
Treasurer:	Yoshimi Munch
Financial Secretary:	Brenda Liu
Secretary:	Catherine Matterson
Auditor:	Ann Xu
Historian:	Harriet Roeder
Parliamentarian:	OPEN
PTA Council Rep:	Leisa Waschura
PTA Council Rep:	OPEN

It's hard to believe that this school year is almost over. Enjoy these last few weeks of school, and the many year-end events.

Leslie

Volunteer Luncheon **May 31st 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for this lovely event. All parent volunteers will be the guests of the Nixon staff for lunch as a small token of our appreciation for all you do. If for some reason you do not want to attend but would be willing to work on your tan with Becky and Barbara Welch for noon supervision, they would be grateful.

3rd Annual Book Exchange **May 29 – June 8**

Bring in your gently used books, and trade them for "new – to- you" summer reading. Pick out one more book than the number you brought in to exchange (up to a 10 book limit per child). Books should be appropriate for K – 7th grade.

‘I believe’ in the May Fete Parade!

Photo credit: Barbara Zhang

Enthusiastic Nixon students, alumni, teachers, parents, and pets, led by our fearless principal, Barbara Welch, marched through downtown Palo Alto in the annual May Fete parade on Saturday, May 5. They proudly demonstrated their Nixon spirit by carrying the school banner, waving dolphin mascots, and chanting “Go Dolphins!” What a great group of marchers, and we proved the old cliché of “the more the merrier”. ***Be sure to join the fun next year!***

Attention 5th Grade Families

Terman Middle School is having a Social Event and PTA meeting on Wednesday, May 23rd from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. "Spring into Social with a Hawaiian Luau" will feature the Terman Jazz Band, Gunn Choir, and other music and dance performances. A Hawaiian BBQ dinner is available. The last PTA meeting of the year will follow dinner. Incoming 6th grade families are invited to attend. Please join in.

And, if you want to start getting better informed about middle school issues and events, sign up now for Terman eNews. Simply send an email to: majordomo@laki.pausd.org with the words "subscribe terman-pta-2009" in the body of the message.

SITE COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOR THE 2007/9 TERM

The Nixon Elementary School Site Council is responsible for developing the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and its priorities, as well as crafting the budget to implement the plan. The Council is made up of six (6) parents and six (6) faculty/staff members who are elected by their peers for a two-year term.

For this election, we need to fill two parent vacancies. Please review the candidate statements in our last Nixon News. Candidates are Lori Delp, Beth Most, and Donna Norton. Ballots can be obtained from the Nixon office or you may use this notice, circling up to two (2) names, including any write-in candidates as desired.

Ballots must be returned to the Nixon office no later than **Wednesday, May 30th, 2007**.
Thank you.

Fit for Learning, May 2007

Ready, Set, Go!

This school year we have raised many issues regarding nutrition and exercise. We hope your family has learned from the newsletter tidbits, that it has fostered discussion around your dinner table, and most importantly that you have been able to make improvements in your family's food choices and activity level.

This month, we remind you that being physically active is a key part of the healthy body equation. The more physical activity our children (and we!) get, the better they eat, sleep, and learn! The first week of May is National Physical Education and Sports Week. Talk with your children about what their favorite PE activities are and what they are keeping busy with at recess. Then as parents, it is a good mental exercise for us to pay attention to the active and sedentary time our children have after school and on the weekends. A balance is best...let's all try to round out "inside time" with a walk, bike ride, or an organized sports activity. ***The key is have fun and stay healthy!***

STOP! DON'T LET THESE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR PASS YOU BY.....

Have you ever thought you'd like to get more involved at Nixon, but were hesitant about where you might contribute? Volunteer opportunities exist that don't require a lot of time, just a commitment of a few hours a month, or a single project. Most positions can also be shared with another parent.

PTA Executive Board

PTA Executive Board positions that remain unfilled include **Parliamentarian** and **PTA Council Representative**. The Palo Alto Council of PTA's provides training for the position of Parliamentarian this Wednesday, May 23rd from 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m. at the District Office, so please consider responding now to this need!

Nixon Names Directory

Participate in a fall project organizing the collection and input of data for the Nixon Names directory. One parent has volunteered to oversee the whole process, but she needs help with data entry, proof-reading, and distribution of the final product. An additional one to four parents are needed.

Spirit Shop

Have your kids worn their Nixon sweatshirts on Spirit Fridays this year? Continue the tradition by volunteering to coordinate our Spirit Shop and the sales of Nixon-themed merchandise at school events throughout the year.

PiE Representative

Partners in Education (PiE) allocated funds to Nixon this year in the amount of \$113,520 which go to support our math and reading specialists, computer lab instructor, Spectra Art teachers, and classroom aides. The PiE representative provides a crucial link between this vital organization and the school, to promote educational excellence for your child. Meetings are held every other month.

Please contact Leisa Waschura.

NIXON CHESS SUCCESS: The team from Nixon School did very well at the CalChess State Scholastic Championship on April 28th taking 5th place for the grades 1-3 Novice with A. Z. (3rd grade) and W. W. (2nd grade) tying in first place. Congratulations!

Rock-a-Hula at the 5th Grade Karaoke Party

The 5th graders celebrated their fast-approaching graduation with a Karaoke Party Friday, May 11th in the Nixon Theater. The theme was Luau/Hawaiian, and they dressed the part in Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts. A professional Karaoke/DJ entertained the kids with lots of songs, in addition to many favorites they requested in advance. There were also games, snacks, hula hoops, and other activities to entertain the kids. Thank you to Susan Nicholls, Jo Marcus, Debra Fong, Leslie Fiedler, Patti Chang, Emmi Fa, Barbara Sourkes, Heena Pitchaikani, Pam Rasmussen, Teal Derrer, Vicki Dempsey, Kelly Meldrum, and Lois Hancock who helped with organizing, decorating and setting up, chaperoning, and cleaning up.

The Library Corner From Janice Mulholland

The **Library Volunteer Team**, under the leadership of Pam Wicks, has done a great job maintaining the facility and making sure that your child gets that perfect library book. Please thank your classroom representative when you get a chance. The children and I appreciate their help very much!

Tae Suk Kim, Erica Weirich, Charlene Aguilar, Luis Fraga, Daisy Zook, Diane Steinberg, Yumi Miyashita, Jeff Willner, Lana Iranmanesh, Fang Wu, Pam Rasmussen, Christy Sekar, Kathryn Schreiner, Pam Wicks, Gabriela Balas, Cassandra Gencarella, Amy Ladd, Azita Taghvaei, Cheryl Lee, Sheryl Humble, Nanacy Tevanian, Madeleine Ekholm, Parveen Rasheed, Reva Shiv, Leisa Waschura, Joy Margerum, Liselott Jorgensen, Nikki Horton, Dawn Healy, Katrin Richter, Guadalupe Vazquez, Irene Wu, Eve Scott, Steve Vida and BoBo Choi Lee (Monday through Friday)

A big thanks to the parents who rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to tackle the projects at the May 2nd **Work Party**:

Nancy Campbell, Gabriela Balas, BoBo Choi Lee, Lisalotte Jorgensen, Diane Steinberg, Ann Godfrey, Kyung Kwon Yoo, Shashi Murthy, Joy Margerum, Patty Chang, Cassandra Gencarella, Trang Tran, Donna Kruep and Pam Wicks (who also brought the cookies!)

YOUR PTA DOLLARS AT WORK

Hungry silk worms will be happy to know four new Mulberry trees have been planted in the kinder play yard area. The teachers and students will be even happier, as they will soon be relieved of the task of finding and bringing in Mulberry branches (the only food the silkworm eats) to school during this kindergarten science activity. A special thank you to Summerwinds Nursery for giving the Nixon PTA a very generous discount for the trees and to Wes, our substitute custodian, and John, from the PAUSD garden crew, for planting them.

Classroom Happenings

What have 1st graders been up to in the computer lab?

Barbara Vana, Nixon's computer lab instructor, works with first graders every other week for various technology-assisted activities and lessons. Some of the activities include learning about computer hardware and terminology, creating patterns with different icons and designs, and making cards and letters for others. Lately, the students have worked with various programs that support their literacy and phonics skills and practice. *Ah Ha!* So there *is* more to the computer than games!

JUST KEEP CLIPPIN'...

those Box Tops for Education. Thank you Nixon Community! This year we earned over \$290.00 from Box Tops for Education labels for our school.

But, don't forget to save those Box Tops labels over the summer. Just clip and save. Turn them into the front office before school ends or wait until next fall. Nixon Elementary receives 10 cents for every label. If you have any questions, contact Liz Fendorf.

Thanks for your support!

Dolphin Giggles *By E. A.*

Q: What did the dolphin say when a crab pinched her flipper?

A: "You did that on porpoise!"

Q: What do you call a group of dolphins listening to music?

A: An iPod

Q: What does a dolphin say when he hears of a crime?

A: "Something smells fishy"

Q: What did the exasperated dolphin say to her child?

A: "You're diving me crazy"

Q: What happens when a dolphin gets very sad?

A: She whales

Tuesday Night is Pizza Night!

Nixon Night Out presents Round Table Pizza Night every first Tuesday of every month of this school year (October through June). Our last Pizza Night will be June 5th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Round Table Pizza located at 405 California Avenue, Palo Alto. Our neighborhood Round Table Pizza restaurant has generously agreed to donate 20% of the receipts to support Nixon! This offer is for dine-in or carry-out, but excludes delivery. So, make it Pizza Night every first Tuesday of the month!

Lost and Found

Parents, be sure to check the Lost & Found. On Wednesday, June 13th all unclaimed articles will be bundled up and donated to the Palo Alto PTA Wardrobe.

2007-2008 School Supplies

A Nixon PTA Sponsored Program

Remember driving to five different stores to get your school supplies last year and the frustration of looking for that one green fine tip pen? Introducing custom-packed school supplies. It is hassle free and a great way to start the school year. Here's what you do:

- Complete the order form for your child's grade next year,
- Attach your check before the end of this school year, and
- Pick up your supplies pack, conveniently boxed, when you register for school in August.

All the supplies required for each grade level have been teacher approved. Your child is ready to go from day one! Continue to watch your child's Friday Folder, *Nixon News*, and eNews for more details and order forms.

Participation in this program is optional. If you prefer to shop for your own school supplies, the list is available at the back of this issue, posted on the school website, and sent home in Friday Folders close to the end of this school year.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Judy Koelbel.

Beyond Nixon

ATTENTION ALL GROWN-UPS!! PARENTS & COMMUNITY!!

Gunn's First Ever DANCE for Adults

Sat. May 19, 7:30-11 pm -- Gunn High Gym
\$25/Couple; \$15/Single

--Great DJ, Free Snacks, & Drinks; Music from 50's to now!! Come have fun -- it's for everyone!!
Palo Alto parents of all ages, friends, relatives, teachers, alumni & community members!!

--TICKETS (CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Gunn High School):
At the Door; OR At Gunn SAC Office; OR
By Mail (you will not be sent a ticket, your name will be on a list at the door)

Ms. Lisa Hall/Gunn Adult Dance, Gunn High School,
780 Arastradero Rd, PA 94306

--BABYSITTING available \$5/child
Info & RSVP: fhilal@pausd.org

Hosted by Gunn Class of 2009,
a fundraiser for class activities.

NEXT PUBLICATION DATE: Friday, June 8

DEADLINE:

Thursday, May 31, 5:00 p.m.

Principal: Barbara Welch

PTA Presidents: Jan Rossi and Leslie Fiedler

Editor: Vicki Dempsey

Layout: Liz Fendorf

About *Nixon News*

Nixon News is a PTA funded newsletter, designed to serve as a parent educational and information resource. It is published every other Friday (except when holidays interfere). Submissions should be sent via e-mail to the editor, Vicki Dempsey. 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 the last page of every issue. They are normally (but not always) the Thursday one 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.