

Nixon News

A Nixon PTA Newsletter

June , 4, 2010—Issue 10

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

Dear Families,

Whoosh! Another school year is coming to a close. One of our major goals for this year has been our implementation of a new math program. Nixon teachers have worked very hard on this, allocating considerable time to learning to effectively use the new materials. We have developed an appreciation for the organization of the content which revisits significant topics throughout the school year in different ways. We know that we have still more work to do next year, but are pleased with our progress. Don't forget to include math thinking in your everyday conversations with your children. Let young children count your change, let your older children calculate the tip in a restaurant. Think out loud when you solve a mental math problem so that your children learn how you approach a math problem. Hearing how you think helps your children learn to think. I encourage families to make use of our school website during the summer to find appropriate activities for children, including math. I'm not encouraging you to have your children spend lots of time in front of "screens," but make good use of whatever time is allotted.

International Night was a resounding success despite the chilly temperature! It is an important priority of ours to ensure that all students feel respected, and all families feel that they belong to the Nixon community. We work on this throughout the year, so our International Night celebration is a marvelous culmination of those efforts with so many of you coming together to celebrate our interesting and diverse heritages. I noticed this year that in several of the performances, there appeared to be an international flavor in the group of participants. How wonderful that our children are interested to learn songs and dances from around the world! The success of this event is not possible without widespread participation, so thanks go to everyone who contributed. We are particularly indebted to the parents who stepped up to coordinate this event – Kim Bomar, Kimberly Lee, Theresa Chung, Anjana Patel, and Rika Bosmans. It would not have been possible without your leadership.

I'm glad we had the opportunity to thank many of you at our **Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast**. We are no less grateful to those who were unable to attend. I know that I am repeating myself, but excellent schools depend on strong parent participation. We are blessed at Nixon School to have a community of families who partner with us to educate our students. Helping in classrooms, driving on field trips, insisting that homework gets done, reading to children and listening to them read, joining PTA, donating to PTA and PiE, attending school events, organizing schoolwide events, directing traffic, serving on Site Council, serving on PTA executive board...the list goes on and on for ways that you support us and all of the students at Nixon. Special thanks to Daisy Zook for leading our PTA this year and Athina Peiou-Quake for serving as chairperson of our School Site Council. These vital organizations have continued to thrive under your leadership.

We will have a few **changes in our teaching staff** for next year. After 26 years at Nixon, we bid a fond farewell to 5th grade teacher, **Donna Rumwell**, who is retiring. Clearly an early riser, Mrs. Rumwell is at school every morning well before the other teachers and often before Abi, our custodian. She has taught 4th and 5th graders over the years with energy, creativity and a good sense of humor. She has sought to both support and to challenge her students and she has mentored many student teachers across the years. We will miss her positive energy, her thoughtfulness and extensive knowledge of the history of Nixon School. We wish her well and wonder if she'll choose to sleep any later in the morning!

Our resource specialist, **Deb Lipari**, is also leaving at the end of this year to move with her husband to the Lake county area. Deb has anchored our team of support providers for 20 years at Nixon, helping to determine what assistance a struggling student might need. Both staff and students have benefited from her

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CALENDAR

Thursday, June 10
5th grade promotion
8:30-10:00 am

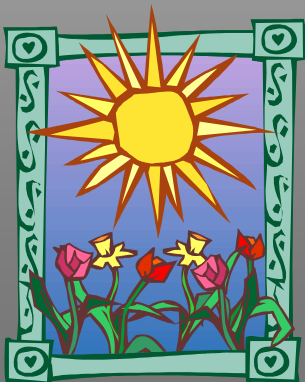
Last day of school!
Minimum Day

Friday, August 20
Back to School
Registration

Tuesday, August 24
First day of 2010-2011
school year

Everyday of summer vacation

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!
READ TO YOUR
CHILDREN!
HAVE INTERESTING
CONVERSATIONS!
WEAR YOUR NIXON SHIRT
OR HAT!





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.

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Principal: Mary Pat O'Connell
PTA President: Daisy Zook
Editor: Julie Tomz
Layout: Anjana Patel

Principal's Corner *Continued from page 1.*

extensive knowledge, warm personal style and exceptional organizational skills. Many, many children have transitioned from struggling to performing at or above grade level under her guidance. We will miss her leadership, her confidence that all is possible, and her nurturing attitude towards all of us. We wish Deb and her husband well in their olive ranching efforts and hope she will find her way into a school in that area. There are children waiting for her help!

I have been working on finding replacements for Donna Rumwell and Deb Lipari, but things are not finalized at the time of writing this. I will put information on our website as soon as I can.

We will have four kindergarten classes at Nixon next fall. Job sharing teachers Jan Krinsley and Lisa Lichtenstern have generously volunteered to move to kindergarten to teach the fourth class. Both Jan and Lisa have taught kindergarten before so they are moving into familiar territory. I appreciate their flexibility in making this change. Long time Nixon teacher, **Britt Brown** will be returning in the fall following her maternity leave this past semester. She will be teaching 4th grade and sharing this position with **Lena Grodin**. Mrs. Grodin comes to us from Duvneck School and was a student teacher under Mrs. Brown before getting a full time job in Palo Alto. Fourth grade teachers **Mrs. Waterhouse** and **Mrs. Edmonds** each teach four days per week and their job share partner for next year will be **Krista Velasquez**, also from Duvneck School in Palo Alto. Our goal in all job share arrangements is for the situation to feel seamless for students and parents. It requires extensive communication between the job sharing teachers, and this is the commitment that they make. In my experience as a principal, it can be a win-win situation for all involved. When teachers are themselves parents of young children, job sharing can be one strategy to balance the demands of work and family.

I would like to remind all of our families to **READ, READ, READ this summer!** Try to have a reading time during the day when you and your child each read books or magazines or newspapers that interest you. Plan it...put it on the schedule on the refrigerator! Children get better at reading by reading! It sounds so simple and obvious, but it is easy to forget during the summer. Pick some read-aloud chapter books for the summer. Be sure your child has a library card. Make reading such an enjoyable part of your summer that your child will remind you when it is time for a return trip to the library! Parents, for your summer reading I recommend [Nurture Shock](#) by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman. It was recommended to principals and school psychologists and I am finding it to be a fascinating compilation of recent research about children growing up. It includes information on the growth mindset, how much sleep children need, talking about race with children, why children lie, siblings, self control, teen rebellion and several more topics. There is some very surprising information included in this book!



I wish for you a safe, relaxing summer with plenty of family adventures – to the beach, the swimming pool, the park, the Exploratorium or the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.... See those of you returning back here on August 24.

Mary Pat O'Connell

PTA President's Letter by Daisy Zook

A highlight of the last month and of the entire year was International Night. What a fantastic way to celebrate the diverse community we have here at Nixon. It was really wonderful to see so many of you proudly showcasing your heritage. The food was absolutely divine, the cultural booths were informative and fun, and the performances thrilling, talented and entertaining. Thank you to Kim Bomar and Rika Bosmans, our committee coordinators, and to everyone who participated.



With this last issue of Nixon News, I want to say that we have had a rocking, wonderful year. All the events and activities this year (International Night, Field Day, Auction, Book Fair, Halloween Parade, Pumpkin Festival, assemblies, 5th grade activities, and so on) could not have taken place without the continued support and participation of all members of our Nixon community. It has been my honor and pleasure to have served as your PTA President this year.

Looking back to the first issue of Nixon News this school year, I had outlined three goals that the PTA would try to achieve. I would like to quickly review them and tell you how we have accomplished these goals.

1. **Improved communication:** We redesigned our website with the help of our very talented Computer Lab Specialist, Sarah Patanroi. Sarah and Wenli Bai have continued to update the pages of our website with news of upcoming events. The calendar is always refreshed whenever an event/activity is scheduled. Linda Baker, our eNews editor for the last 6 years, brings us up to the minute information every Saturday morning as eNews gets delivered to our email inboxes. The Nixon News team of Julie Tomz (editor), Anjana Patel (layout) and Leisa Waschura (distribution) have made sure we capture the essence of our children as they learn and play in our Nixon school environment. Mary Pat O'Connell, our principal extraordinaire, keeps us up to date with school curriculum news and who also shares with us her vast knowledge and experience as an educator and a parent. Volunteer contributions to our newsletter each month serve to inform us of events, both past and at a future date.
2. **Building our community:** We have had many events that strive to build our community- the most recent is our International Night (see separate write up in this issue). We celebrated being back at school and meeting new families with our back to school coffee and picnic; we raised funds by participating in our dining out programs and auction event (attended by both staff and families). Our first Take Your Family to School Week saw many dads, grandparents and working moms having lunch with their child/children, reading books in the library and sharing breakfast with other families in our community. The Haiti Relief garage sale brought the community together to help those in need. The passing of the Measure A bond brought members of the community together as we work to maintain educational support for our children.
3. **Closing the educational gap:** With the fundraisers we held, we were able to significantly update our library collection. The students were excited to see a wide array of books to check out, both for academic projects as well as reading entertainment. They also enjoyed the puppet theatre during lunch time. We purchased document readers and some SMART Boards for the teachers to use in their classrooms. This allowed students to actively participate in class and they are all very eager to share their knowledge and to try out this new device.

The PTA also supported the teaching staff by providing instructional funds of \$20,000 to help with the costs of school supplies; each teacher also received \$500 to help defray some of the costs of maintaining their classroom and/or enriching the curriculum. We showed our appreciation to the staff in many ways: latte carts; brunches and lunches.

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All of the above, and much more, could not happen without your support and participation. I would like to especially thank the very talented members of the Executive Board and the Committee Coordinators for all the time and effort they put forth this year. Thank you for sharing your talents with us and for giving us the gift of your time.

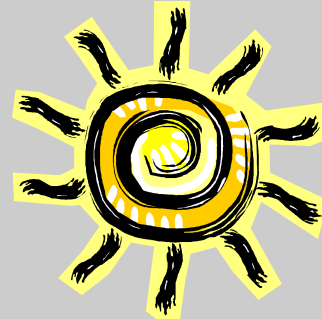
Thank you to the Nixon staff for being a wonderful partner with us this year in all of our undertakings, including some zany ideas that we cooked up! You rock!

I also want to welcome our 2010-2011 PTA Nixon Executive Board and Committee Coordinators. Please continue to support them as they work hard to keep our school and community strong and enriched. It really does take a village to support our students and their wellbeing.

I wish all of our graduating 5th grade families good luck as they begin their middle school journey.

Have a Great Summer!

Daisy Zook



Thank You to Nixon Library Volunteers

By Janice Mulholland, Librarian



A HUGE thank you to **Daisy Zook** and **Elizabeth Chung** for leading our hard-charging team of library volunteers! The group has doubled in size from last year, and with the extraordinary, “tripled” budget this year, the collection has received a great infusion of new books stamped, processed, shelved then checked in and out to students by our parent team. (The Math, Science and holiday collections as well as biographies and fiction were substantially updated.) Student book requests are rapidly being filled, and we will start the new school year continuing to go down the lists with many more! Children are putting on plays at every recess in the Puppet Theater. (It’s also the coveted niche for quiet reading after school.) The book repair machine is already paying for itself. The Listening Library of audio-books will be launched into classrooms at the beginning of September. The Annual Book Exchange begins May 24. The Book Exchange is an opportunity for students to trade personal books (appropriate for K-6th graders and with parent permission.) All library books are due by May 28th. The Book Exchange will be continuing so that students will have reading material for summer vacation. Many thanks to:

Tomoko Ueno, Vivian Woo, Kim Bomar, Deidre Logan, Alli Deeter, Vicki Sandin, Nikki Horton, Lee Ann Taylor, Trinh Le, Jasminka Jakovljevic, Patricia Smith, Liz Fendorf, Suzie Lincoln, Guadalupe Vazquez, Leisa Waschura, Cassandra Gencarella, Elizabeth Chung, Daisy Zook, Kim Grimm, Akiko Shimoda, Sunny Kim, Julie Tomz, Mala Sivapalasingam, Keiko Shimono, Sheryl Humble, Ruth Ann Daines, Ashini Srivastava, Edward Huang, Noriyo Taniguchi, Nancy Sellinger, Liselotte Jorgensen, Jiyun Kim, Page Hetzel, Kari Nadeau, Dotti Shrager, Kelly Mahoney, Ricarda Tomczak, Sheila Gonzalgo, Glynn Edwards, Karen Lee and Akiko Mori

You have created a lovely library for our children.

Introducing 2010-2011 PTA Board Members

By Daisy Zook

Our Nominating Committee members, chaired by Karen Jacobson, did an awesome job of finding the candidates to lead the PTA next year. Members of the nominating committee are: Karen Jacobson, Jo Marcus, Beth Most, Neeraja Kambham, and Katie Talbot. They worked hard to fill just about every position (Board and Committee) for next year. Please be sure to thank them the next time you see them at Nixon.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the 2010-2011 PTA Executive Board:

Co-Presidents: Beth Most and Shali Miklos
Executive VP and Parliamentarian: Ruth Ann Daines
VP- Family Programs: Jo Marcus
VP- Fundraising: Sarika Pandey
VP-Communications: Liz Fendorf
Treasurer: Lien Vu
Financial Secretary: Theresa Chung
Secretary: Cinnamon Chu and Sarah Wert
Auditor: Karen Jacobson
Historian: Tim Edmonds
PTA Council Rep: Kim Bomar, Ping Hao and Ammie Rodden

Congratulations and thank you for volunteering to be next year's leaders. I hope that you will support them as they work hard to make sure that the Nixon community stays strong and enriched. They cannot do this alone so please lend a hand where you can.

NOTE: There are still two remaining positions: VP of Student Programs and Co-Chair of International Night. Please get in touch with Beth or Shali if you would like to fill these roles.

NEW SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS CHOSEN

Congratulations and many thanks to our new parent representatives on the Nixon Site Council -- Michael Grady, Laura Nicolls, and Vicki Sandin.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT CELEBRATES NIXON'S DIVERSE COMMUNITY

By Kim Bomar

This year's International Celebration was held on Friday, May 21st. As in previous years, the Nixon community came out in the hundreds to celebrate this wonderful event, despite the somewhat brisk weather.

The event began with a display of cultural booths from 24 countries, including favorites from previous years: Australia, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria and Spain, and eight booths presented by first-time participants: Argentina, Canada, Croatia, England, Greece, The Philippines, Malawi, Scotland, Serbia and the USA.

The cultural booths offered a bounty for the eyes, the ears and the mouths. The China booth was particularly popular this year, and not only for its beautiful red lanterns. Their free snow cones were a huge hit with the kids. Students visiting the Malawi booth learned that it is known as "The Warm Heart of Africa." Visitors to the Philippines booth were treated to live Filipino folk music. The Italian booth offered Italian flag tattoos. The Greek booth offered kids a chance to win prizes for reading words in the Greek alphabet. A perennial crowd pleaser, the Korean booth invited kids to dress up in traditional Korean clothing and have their picture taken. Every booth was a rich experience. Our thanks to all the families who were so generous in presenting their cultural booths, and to Anjana Patel, this year's International Booth Co-Chair.

After guests had a chance to peruse the cultural booths, it was time for the International Buffet. This feast of over 100 dishes from around the world was generously provided by Nixon families. The PTA also sponsored a small selection of international dishes to supplement the delicious items contributed by our families. The result was a truly amazing buffet. Food was delicious and plentiful and the lines moved quickly. Many thanks to Kimberly Lee, International Buffet Co-Chair, who volunteered her extensive catering expertise (and equipment) to make our International Buffet experience so positive.

After dinner, the kids assembled for a parade through the cultural booth area to the entertainment area. The packed crowd was treated to international performances, most featuring Nixon students, by Raices de Mexico (Mexican folkloric dancing), Nixon's Korean Dancers, Nixon's Indian Dancers, Stanford Wushu, Spanish Flamenco Dancers, Kaorihiva Stanford Polynesian Dance Group, and as the finale, our own Nixon Orff Ensemble, which was a perfect way to end the evening. Mary Pat O'Connell thanked everyone for helping to celebrate the global richness of our school. Our thanks to all of our performers for sharing their wonderful talents with us. Thanks also to Theresa Chung (who also chaired publicity) and Sarah Patanroi, Entertainment Co-Chairs, who worked tirelessly to secure our exciting entertainment line-up and to ensure that all went smoothly.

Kim Bomar and Rika Bosmans, Co-Chairs of this year's International Celebration, would like to thank all of the Nixon community, and the Nixon PTA, for your generosity in participating in and contributing to this event. Thanks also to Sherman Ting for providing the photos that capture the spirit of our International Celebration so beautifully.

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Preliminary Schedule for 2010-11 Nixon Enrichment Classes Available

The 2010-2011 school year is just around the corner, and it's not too early to begin thinking about your child's after-school plans. The preliminary schedule for after-school enrichment programs is presented below. The final schedule will be available in August, and registration will begin then. Information about enrichment programs is posted at lnixon.org . Follow the "enrichment" link.

Please contact the enrichment coordinator, Katie Talbot with any questions.

Mon	Living Spanish (M/F)	K	11:30-12:05	
	Living Spanish (M/W)	4 & 5	2:30-3:15	
	Math F4Ed (Fun After School Math)	All	2:30-4:00	10/4-11/29 (No class 11/22) 1/10-3/7 4/18-5/9
	Math Olympiads	4	2:30-4:00	9/13-12/13
	Soccer Shots	K	11:30-12:05	9/1-11/22 1/24-3/14 3/21-5/9
Tues	Living Spanish (T/Th) Beginner Advanced	1-3 1-3	2:30-3:15 2:30-3:15	
	Real Science	K 1-5	11:30-12:30 2:30-3:30	8/31-12/14 1/4-3/15 3/22-5/31
	Stretch Play Yoga	1-5	2:30-3:15	8/31-12/14 1/4-3/15 3/22-5/24
Wed	Chess	All	1:20-2:20	9/1-12/15 1/5-5/18
	Hoops	3-5	1:20-2:20	9/1-12/15 1/5-3/16 3/23-5/25
	Learn to Draw	2-5	1:20-2:30	9/3-12/15 1/3-3/17 3/27-5/27
	Living Spanish: see Monday listings			
	Mandarin Beginner (W/F)	1-3	1:20-2:05	

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	Mandarin Intermediate (M/w) (please see Friday listing for Friday times)	4 & 5	1:20-2:05	9/15-11/24 1/26-3/16 3/23-5/11
	Soccer Shots	1 & 2	1:20-1:55	
Thur	Living Spanish (T/Th) Beginner Advanced	1-3 1-3	2:30-3:15 2:30-3:15	
	PAPPA Clay	1-5	2:30-4:00 Kinder Area	9/2-12/16 1/6-3/17 3/24-5/26
	Run for Fun	K 1-5	11:30-12:00 2:30-3:30 Field by CCLC	9/16-10/17 9/16-10/27 2/25-3/18 3/25-5/27
Fri	Hoops	K-2	1:20-2:10	9/3-12/17 1/7-3-18 3/25-5/27
	Fun Fridays	K 1-3	11:30-1:15 Or 11:30-2:30 1:15-2:30	9/3-12/17 1/7-3/18 3/25-5/27
	Junior Museum Science	K 1-3 4-5	11:35-12:20 1:20-2:05 2:30-3:15	9/10-10/22 10/29-12/10 1/28-3/04 3/11-4/08 4/22-5/27
	Living Spanish: see Monday listing	K	11:30-12:05	
	Mandarin: see Wednesday listing	1-3	1:30-2:05 2:30-3:15	

JUST KEEP CLIPPIN'...

... those **Box Tops for Education!** Thank you Nixon Community for your continued support in our fundraising efforts!

Don't forget to save those Box Tops 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!



Thank You Volunteers!
We couldn't have done it without you

The L.M. Nixon PTA Executive Board extends our appreciation

In Recognition of All of Your Hard Work

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Event</u>
Cinnamon Chu	Staff Appreciation Week
Kim Bomar & Rika Bosmans	International Night
Shali Miklos, Kim Grimm & Kathleen Ruppel	3 rd grade Bike Safety

With Special thanks to 5th grade Promotion Activities team::

Class Coordinators: Cassandra Gencarella & Betty Carlson

Treasurer: Yoshimi Munch

Fundraising: Tena Cherry, Ann Xu, Brenda Liu, Jenny Montejo, Amy Kohrman

Yearbook: Carolina Albers, Suzie Lincoln, Yoshimi Munch, Vera Renski, Liz Fendorf

T-shirts: Debra Bartlett, Brenda Liu, Wenli Bai, Lavina Nagy, Lisa Samuelson

Karaoke Party: Tena Cherry, Gioia Allegretti, Liz Fendorf, Wenli Bai, Leisa Waschura

Promotion & Reception: Nitay Gill, Jenny Montejo, Tena Cherry, Brenda Liu, Vera Renski, Glorina Martin, Catherine Matterson

Barbeque/Pool Party: Karen Matthys, Leisa Waschura, Yoshimi Munch, Sabine Bammer, Vera Renski, Glorina Martin, Nitay Gill

Students Speak

This issue has two questions.

Have you ever cheered up someone who was sad or hurt? Please tell us how you did it.

I. N. (2nd grade): I cheered up my friend when she got hurt and I took her up to the office. I cheered her up by telling her some funny jokes from the jokebook I was reading her.

What are you looking forward to doing over summer vacation?

I. O. (Kindergarten): I'm looking forward to going to Italy and having some gelato. I really want to try the lemon gelato that my mama told me about and I hope I get to try all the flavors. And I'm looking forward to having my wiggly tooth come out."

A. O. (2nd grade): "I am looking forward to going to my grandma's house in Southern California and to Italy and England. In Italy I want to eat all the pasta I can eat and have lots of gelato. In England I want to go to Auntie Yombo's house and get the treats she usually gives me."

Congratulations to **I. N.**, 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 August, please send a photo of yourself wearing your Nixon T-shirt or hat during summer vacation and tell us where you went and what you did! Please e-mail responses to Julie Tomz.



By Athena Cherry

Nixon 5th Grader Raises Money for Palo Alto Humane Society

During the month of March, J. C., a Nixon fifth grader, raised money for the Palo Alto Humane Society (PAHS) by holding a "penny war." Children donated spare change as a competition between the different pods at the school. She collected \$300 to donate to PAHS. The "A" pod won, but PAHS were the real winners. Thanks to everyone who donated!

Donations allow the Humane Society to staff their HelpLine, create and manage humane programs, speak on behalf of critical animal issues, affect public perceptions and action, save animals' lives through emergency veterinary funding, fund spaying and neutering to prevent increased overpopulation and subsequent euthanasia in animal shelters, and save human-animal bonds through veterinary assistance to those unable to afford it.

Thank again for your contributions!

Attention Incoming 5th Grade Parents: 5th Grade Activities Volunteers Needed

To All Parents of the Nixon Incoming Fifth Grade Students:

Each year, the fifth grade class has various activities that take place throughout the year. These activities are run solely by fifth grade parent volunteers and are a fun tradition for the fifth grade class. We definitely need volunteers in order for the activities to occur so please pitch in and help next year. Most immediately, we are in need of someone (or a jobshare team) to coordinate fundraising.

If you are available to help and/or would like information regarding activities, please contact Ellen Waxman or Julie Tomz, 5th Grade Activity Co- Coordinators.

Thank you for your support of our incoming 5th grade class!

Nixon Happenings:

An unusual number of interesting and fun activities have happened at Nixon in this last month of school. Here is a sample.

Night at the Nixonian

About a dozen Nixon students got to spend the night at Nixon on May 14, as part of the Night at the Nixonian adventure auctioned off at the Nixon auction earlier this year. Students arrived at the Nixon theatre at 7:30, then played games, walked with flashlights around the school, heard stories about a visiting ghost, played kickball under the lights, saw the fireworks from the Stanford baseball game, all before watching Night at the Museum 2 and finally collapsing in sleeping bags in the theatre under the watchful eye of teacher hosts. In the morning, students were treated to juice and bagels before pick-up. Everyone had a great time!

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Nixon staff showed their appreciation to parent volunteers by hosting a lovely breakfast on May 27 in the Nixon theatre. Students had created beautiful tablecloths as well as a videotaped thank you message for parents. In an extra gracious touch, teachers gave single long-stem roses to parents.

Eww, Gross! An Icky Investigation of the Human Body

The Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley, presented an assembly that only kids could love – all about the science behind burps, sneezes, and yes, even passing gas. Students in all grades learned about the digestive, respiratory, circulatory, and excretory systems. Some lucky volunteers even got to make fake well, let's just say the stuff in your nose that rhymes with dot. The assembly was based on the Grossology books by Sylvia Branzei.

4th and 5th Grade Talent Show

On May 28, students had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a variety of areas, from singing and playing musical instruments, to doing martial arts and gymnastics. Students in younger grades got to watch and listen and possibly begin thinking about what they might do in a future talent show! Congratulations to all students who had the courage to perform in front of their peers!

Bed in Summer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

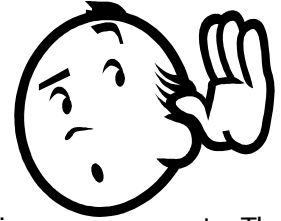
In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?



How to Get Difficult Kids to Listen



Kids test boundaries all the time at all ages, resulting in stressed-out, worried and sometimes angry parents. There is relief. Writing for the *Empowering Parents* newsletter, behavioral therapist James Lehman explains how to set limits effectively and get your kids to listen. Read his guidelines for establishing your role as "limit setter" for your children.

All emotionally healthy kids test limits. Behavioral therapist James Lehman believes this is actually a good thing for kids to do, provided limits are tested in a healthy way. The harder your child pushes, the more we should be asking, "Is he ready for more responsibility?" and "Am I, as a parent, ready for different limits?", according to Lehman.

The process is simple: You set limits by telling your child "no" and explain why once. You tell him what the consequences are going to be if the behavior continues. The next time he does it, you give him the consequence that you laid out. Don't over-explain your rationale. Don't allow your child to think he can argue you out of what you've decided.

The following are some guidelines for parents to help them set limits effectively:

- **Be a limit setter.** It's not easy or fun, but it is one of the roles of effective parents (along with teacher and coach). Your job as limit setter is to draw the line at the point where things become unsafe or unhealthy.
- **Decide where the line is.** Set firm limits. While your child's inner monologue goes "I can do it; why won't she let me?" your attitude has to be "My job is to keep you safe and healthy. This is the way it is." If you try to get your child to agree with your reasoning, the argument will fall on deaf ears. Resist the temptation to seek validation from your kids. Seek it from other parents.
- **Plan ahead.** Plan the limits you want to set. Establish consequences and rewards. Use this "menu" of rewards and consequences when you need it.
- **Teach right from wrong.** Kids process information differently from adults. They don't know right from wrong as clearly as we think they do. Parents must keep them focused.
- **Help internalize good behavior.** Setting limits helps children learn to set limits on themselves. Ideally, he or she learns to weigh the cost-benefit ratio of following limits on his or her own.
- **Learn to let your child feel discomfort.** When you set a firm limit on your younger child and he gets upset, you have to learn to let him cry or go to his room and throw stuffed animals around. Many parents worry their kids won't love them. But if you are a good enough parent, your child will love you as long as they possess the capacity to love.
- **Present yourself well.** Know what you look like when you are being firm. You don't want to look too scary. Your child needs to perceive the person setting limits as being reasonable and calm.

For the full version of "Setting Limits With Difficult Kids," go to EmpoweringParents.com.

James Lehman is a behavioral therapist and the creator of The Total Transformation Program for parents. He has worked with troubled children and teens for three decades. Lehman holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from Boston University.

(This article excerpted with permission from Empowering Parents. For more information, visit empoweringparents.com.)

Beyond Nixon

AYSO Soccer

The Palo Alto AYSO soccer programs are on again this year. The parent volunteers of AYSO have organized summer camps and of course, the fall program that is visible all over Palo Alto parks and school fields every year. Early registration has started and offers significant savings. You can find out more at <http://www.ayso26.org>

City of Palo Alto Boards & Commissions

The City of Palo Alto is currently accepting applications several Boards & Commissions, including one new Commission which will make recommendations to Council for addressing the current funding gap in the City Infrastructure Budget.

Serving on a commission is an opportunity for citizens to become involved with their local government. If you or someone you know has been looking for a chance to affect change with topics that have an impact in your community, please consider applying.

- Applications for the **new Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission** are due on Thursday, June 17, 2010 by 5:30pm.

- Applications for the **Public Art Commission** are due on Thursday, June 24, 2010 by 5:30pm.

- Applications for the **Utilities Advisory Commission** are due on Thursday, June 10, 2010 by 5:30pm. If one of the incumbents does not apply the deadline will be extended to Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 5:30pm.

Palo Alto residency may be required to serve on some of these commissions.

Send an email to Ronna.Gonsalves@cityofpaloalto.org, call me at 650-329-2267 if you would like more information. Thank you for your time.

Palo Alto Library June Activities

Summer Reading Program: Make a Splash @ Your Library. June 1 - Aug. 31.

Children up through the 5th grade and teens in grades 6-12, sign up from June 1 until July 31 at any branch or online at www.cityofpaloalto.org/library. Decide how many books you will read, or listen to. Reach your goal and receive a certificate, a free paperback book, San Jose Earthquakes tickets and a buy one, get one free pizza coupon from Round Table. Prizes and certificates can be picked up Aug. 1-31.

Wacky Wednesdays, 3:30pm, Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St.

The Ugly Duckling Makes a Splash, June 16, (also Main Library, 1213 Newell Road, 7pm)

Pacific Ocean Brought to You, June 23

Capt'n Jack Spareribs, June 30

Paws to Read, June 19, 3:30pm, Children's Library. Read to a canine companion who will love hearing your story.

Mitchell Park Library Closing for Construction

Groundbreaking Ceremony, Sat. June 12, 1-3pm.

The Mitchell Park Library and Community Center will be relocating this June to the Cubberley Community Center. Construction will begin this summer on the new environmentally-innovative joint facility and will be complete in the summer of 2012. The Library will close to the public Sat. June 5 and will re-open at the Cubberley Community Center Auditorium, 4050 Middlefield, Mon. June 28. The temporary Library will hold the majority of the current collection, including books, DVDs, and CDs. The Library will also provide access to 16 PCs and 13 loaner laptops for Internet and processing use, as well as free access to Wi-Fi. The temporary Library will also continue to provide programs. Please make sure to attend the Groundbreaking Ceremony to celebrate the construction of the joint facility with an afternoon of family entertainment, ice cream, music, crafts, and community sharing.

PACO 44th Season Final Concert, "Made in the Americas"

Sat. June 5, 8pm, Eagle Theater Los Altos High School, 201 Almond Avenue, Los Altos.

From the sunny shores of the Caribbean to the dark alleys and tango joints of Argentina, Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra's musical journey, conducted by Music Director Benjamin Simon, travels through the Americas, south and north. PACO will also be presenting the world premiere of its fifth annual Youth-for-Youth commission, a new work for string orchestra by Berkeley native Gabriella Smith. Tickets: \$5 - \$15. Info: 856-3848 or www.pacomusic.org.

PACO Sinfonia to Present PACO 2010 Concerto Winners

Sun. June 6, 3pm, Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford.

The concert, to be conducted by PACO Music Director Benjamin Simon, features local young talents from nine to seventeen years old, winners of Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra's 2010 concerto competition. Admission is free. Info: 856-3848 or www.pacomusic.org.

Help Summer Events be Zero Waste

July 10, 11, 10am-5pm, and Aug. 28, 29, 10am-6pm.

GreenWaste is looking for committed, responsible, people-oriented individuals to volunteer at events this summer in exchange for community service hours. The volunteers will be stationed at "eco-stations", educating the public and acting as recycling-compost-garbage experts. They will be trained on what is recyclable, what is compostable, and what has to go in the garbage. Their role will be to pass this knowledge on to the public and help keep the bins uncontaminated. Clay and Glass Festival, July 10 and 11, and the Art and Wine Festival, August 28 and 29. Must commit to at least 3 hours. Please contact Zea Luce with GreenWaste at zluce@greenwaste.com or 799-3213.

PACT Contest Winners Staged Readings

Fri. June 4, 7pm, Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield, Palo Alto.

The winning plays of the Palo Alto Children's Theatre's 10-Minute Playwriting Contest will be showcased as staged readings on June 4. All participants who submitted plays to the contest will be recognized and presented with awards. A reception will follow. The plays are: *Birbal's Porridge* by Swati Goel, 8-10 year old category, *A Mediocre Murder* by Lana Graves, 11-13 year old category, and *Once Upon a Time* by Leah Bleich, 14-18 year old category.

Palo Alto World Music Day: Save the Date, Musicians and Volunteers Wanted

Sun. June 20, 3-7:30pm, University Ave, King Plaza (City Hall) and surrounding streets.

World Music Day is a free music festival that takes place in cities around the world every year around the Summer Solstice. In Palo Alto, professional and amateur musical groups will perform a wide variety of musical genres on street corners and plazas: jazz, classical, pop, rock, world music, choirs, etc. All performances will be free and open to the public. The organizers are now looking for musicians and event volunteers from our community, including students from our schools. Info: www.pamusicday.org or info@pamusicday.org. In addition to the City of Palo Alto, event sponsors include the Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation, the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, the Palo Alto Downtown Business and Professional Association, and News for Chinese.

MOAH Upcoming Workshops

Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer, Palo Alto.

Build a Shortwave Radio: Sat. June 19, 26, July 10, 17, 1-3pm, Ages 10 and up; \$65 members/\$75 non-members

Design for Superheroes: Sun. Sept 12, 19, 1-3pm, Ages 10 and up; \$45 members/\$55 non-members

Info or to register: www.moah.org/education or 321-1004