



Foothill Finformation

California Distinguished School

“Foothill School --- Where Kids are Really Cool! - Dolphins Splash!”

Foothill Elementary School

February 2012

Principal's Message

Spring seems to have “leap frogged” over winter, but maybe Mother Nature is tardy and we will still get our share of rain showers. As I write this there have been over one hundred days of school with not one day of rainy day recess. It seems as if our winters bring more rain than we would like or not as much as we need. As usual there are lots of good happenings at Foothill but I would like to take this opportunity and share some thoughts about one very important program: Project Cornerstone.

I recently attended a training titled “Building Developmental Assets in School Communities.” This training provided strategies to enhance school culture and boost academic success. The training was provided by the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the speaker was an author by the name of Clay Roberts. The topic of developmental assets is a common discussion point at Foothill and at District meetings. We were first introduced to developmental assets through Project Cornerstone.

Developmental assets are positive factors in young people, families, communities, schools, and other settings that have been found to be important in promoting young people’s healthy development. An independent organization known as the Search Institute has identified 40 assets such as family support, caring school climate, caring neighborhood, adult role models, and safety. The 40 assets are organized into eight categories such as support, commitment to learning, and positive identity. There are many opportunities for students to learn and hear about these assets during the school day. An example of this was seen recently as students

discussed the book “Salt in his Shoes 2” the story of Michael Jordan and the resiliency he showed when he faced adversity. Topics such as goal setting, support networks, and life dreams are all discussed and supported by lessons that students take part in.

What do developmental assets have to do with students’ academic performance?

Research supports the notion that students who have more assets will be more effective learners. The research also shows that students whose levels of developmental assets remained stable or increased, had significantly higher GPAs three years later than students who declined in their assets. And the more their assets increased, the more their GPAs increased. If you are interested in learning more about this research you can look at the website <http://www.search-institute.org/>

Ok but how does that work?

Students who have a quality support system in place along with a commitment to learning, a positive identity, social competencies, and positive values are more likely to succeed at school and beyond. Students who feel connected to school along with positive adult role models and positive peer influences are better equipped to make healthy decisions.

It is important to realize that we can take positive actions to build developmental assets for our students. All of us who touch the lives of students in important ways can be powerful asset builders for them. The Foothill staff is committed to this good work with the support of the district and our community. Our staff and parent volunteers continue to look at new ways of instilling and building assets in our students and school community.

Respectfully,

Joe Bosco

jbosco@saratogausd.org

(408) 867-4036 Ext. 232



Every Friday is Spirit Day
Wear Blue & White!

*There is no supervision for children on the playground before 8:15 AM or after school
If you need to drop them off early or pick them up late, you must register with Clubhouse
(408) 867-6646*



- * No dogs allowed on campus before, during, or after school
- * Visitors must sign in at the office
- * Sign up for E-news to get weekly reminders and information
(see school website for sign-up information)

Important Upcoming Dates

Note: Our school website calendar and weekly eNEWS reminders have more dates available. Check website calendar for class field trips.



Plan ahead dates:
Mark your calendars

Friday, February 10

Pennies for Patients has been extended one more week!
Spirit Assembly featuring Lunar New Year 8:40am MP Rm.
PTA Sponsored Activity Night, "Movie Night" 7:00pm MP Rm.

Tuesday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day!
Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00pm District Office

Wednesday, February 15

2:10 Dismissal Day Gr. 1-5
5th Gr. District Choir Practice 2:15 – 3:15pm MP Rm.
5th Gr. Parent Informational Meeting: Human Growth & Development
6:30 – 7:30pm Argonaut Multi-purpose Rm.

Friday, February 17

Pennies for Patients ends today, thank you for your generosity!
Spring Student Council General Elections 1:15pm MP Rm.

Mon. – Fri., February 20 – 24

No School – February Recess

Monday, February 27

School resumes, Welcome Back!

Tuesday, February 28

Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00pm District Office

Wednesday, February 29

2:10 Dismissal Day Gr. 1-5

Thursday, March 1

Minimum Day (Conference Prep)

Friday, March 2

No School for Students – Teacher Work Day

Tuesday, March 6

4th Gr. STAR Writing Test

Wednesday, March 7

2:10 Dismissal Day Gr. 1-5
5th Gr. District Choir Practice 2:15 – 3:15pm MP Rm.

Thursday, March 8

Science Fair – activities all day
Science Fair – Evening Event 6:30 – 8:00pm MP Rm.

Friday, March 9

Spirit Assembly 8:40am MP Rm

Mon. – Fri. March 12 – 16

2nd Grade MARS Testing
Kindergarten Conferences all
Week – Minimum Day
Dismissal all week: 11:30am

Tuesday, March 13

MARS Testing Gr. 3-5
Board of Trustees Meeting
7:00pm District Office

Wednesday, March 14

Minimum Day – Conferences
for Grades 1 – 5, Dismissal:
12:30
MARS Testing Gr. 3-5
4th Grade Store 9:00am MP Rm

Thursday, March 15

Minimum Day – Conferences
for Grades 1 – 5, Dismissal:
12:30

Tuesday, March 20

PTA General Meeting 8:30am
in Clubhouse

Thurs. & Fri. March 22 & 23

5th Grade "Walk through Rev."
program - in Library

Monday, March 26

Mime Assembly 9:00 – 9:45am
MP Rm.



On behalf of the Saratoga Foothill Club we wanted to thank you for your very generous donations of canned goods and other healthy packaged foods. The response was overwhelming, and we were very happy to be able to fill our boxes to almost overflowing!

On Monday, December 6th and Tuesday December 7th, volunteers from the Foothill Club packed 148 boxes (to serve 202 people) with a frozen chicken, fresh fruits and vegetables, a frozen dessert, toiletries, paper products, stuffing mix, cranberries, canned yams, rice and a wide variety of donated canned goods and other packaged items. The boxes were then delivered to local seniors in need by Saratoga firefighters and the Boy Scouts from troop 339.

The Saratoga Foothill Club has been preparing these boxes for over 25 years and we are very grateful for your participation.

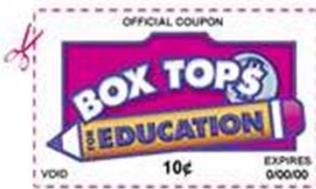


Pennies for patients



Foothill students once again raised money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) with a Pennies for Patients fundraiser set to end on February 17. For more information about LLS, check our website and click on the link. Stay tuned to hear about the results of how much Foothill students collected in a future eNews weekly reminder, or on our website.

Box Tops



Win a prize! Contest runs until February 28. Turn in 10 or more Box tops in a Ziploc bag include student's name, grade level and teacher – you will be entered in a drawing to win a prize! Box Tops for Education is an easy way to earn cash for Foothill School. You can earn cash for Foothill each time you shop for groceries! You can find Box Tops coupons on hundreds of products such as Betty Crocker, Cheerios, Chex cereals, Ziploc storage bags, COTTONELLE, and HUGGIE products, in addition to many more products. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for Foothill!

Forgotten Lunches and Homework



If your child has left his lunch, books or homework at home and you would like to bring it to school, please drop these items off in the school office on the table by the window. Please label it with your child's name and room number and let office know if your child needs to be contacted. We will let your child know that the item is here at an appropriate time such as lunch or recess. We will not interrupt instruction time to call your child to the office. Thank you for your cooperation. If you requested homework during your child's absence, homework will be available after 3:00pm. Reminder, office closes at 4:00pm Monday through Friday.

Breakfast before recess

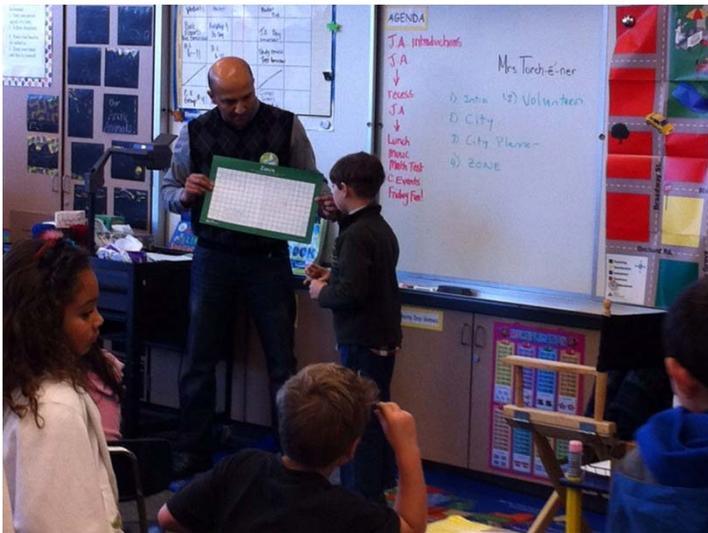
Your child may purchase a healthy continental breakfast for \$2.00 using their lunch cards. Please check the school website and click on Food Services on the left side of our home page for a current menu.



Mr. Cobourn, a devoted art docent volunteer!



5th Grade Colonial Day



Junior Achievement (JA) Day was Friday, February 3, several JA volunteers came to classrooms and spent the day with students. The Junior Achievement program helps prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it. It also teaches them how to create jobs which make their communities more robust and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace.



A Message from your PTA President

The silent heroes

Many people have asked me how I took the job of PTA President being a working mom. Having been involved with the school for quite some time now, I knew that this was actually almost a step back in some way.

What many in fact may not realize is that the big job is in the hands of those working to make our School and our organization function. They do that with their silent and very hard work; they are the members of the volunteer pool and their coordinators, not the PTA President. While overall leadership, coordination, logistics and formalities are important to keep the organization moving, what really impacts our kids every day is the presence on campus of the many parents helping in our programs, in the class activities and supporting our wonderful teachers, showing our kids that *we care*.

This is the army of parents that have made our kids day on Friday February 3rd, during JA (Junior Achievement) Day, (some of the JA volunteers even volunteered in classes where their kids were not a student in). All the parent volunteers that are at the Family Fun Night stations, the volunteers on campus during Science Day, the Art Docents, the Project Cornerstone Volunteers, the Math Olympiad Docents (just to mention some). The many more parent volunteers that run group activities in the library, in the classrooms, in the Computer lab, during Field day and on many other occasions.

But there are also the coordinators, often unknown, sometimes forgotten. The coordinators, this is yet another army of parents that work behind the scenes and make all those programs happen. They plan and organize major and minor events, making sure that every class has all the volunteers that are needed to make each event a success. Quietly they meet while their kids are in school, and sometimes they get a chance to see them while they go to PE, Music, or Library and can give them a smile. They discuss and plan a program in the lunch area, other times they are working hard in the workroom, or at the copier. Sometimes they meet at the library and they help run the School Council. They take time off from their jobs, and they take things home to do at night. You see them going around the campus with papers in their hand, hard to distinguish them from the Teachers themselves. They seem very at ease on campus. They are the silent heroes that enable our organization and our volunteers to make our school special.

Take a minute, and thank them, smile to them, ask your kids to point them out to you, they know who they are very well.

Thank you!
Antonella

Parent Workshop: Common Core State Standards for Mathematics

Sponsored by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, Silicon Valley Mathematics Initiative, San Jose State University and the Region V Algebra Forum Team.

PURPOSE

Learn how Common Core State Standards for Mathematics will impact your child’s K-12 learning experiences at school. Understand how your child will be assessed in achieving various mathematics competencies. Learn about academic support strategies and activities that support your child’s mathematics learning.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

- Understand how the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics will impact your child’s learning.
- Learn how various instructional strategies can impact your child’s mathematics skill development.
- Understand how the new mathematics assessment system will measure your child’s mathematics skills.

The National PTA enthusiastically supports the adoption and implementation by all states of the Common Core Standards.

DATE

Saturday, March 31, 2012

TIME

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

OR

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION

Santa Clara County Office of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive – Gilroy Room
San Jose, CA 95131

COST

Free – Snacks Included

Space is limited; No child care available

CONTACT

Theresa Martinez

(408) 453-4322

theresa_martinez@sccoe.org

Registration Deadline: March 26, 2012

Common Core Content Standards – Mathematics Parent Workshop

Register online at <http://santaclara.k12oms.org/201-56332>

or mail/fax registration form to:

Santa Clara COE
Attn: Theresa Martinez
1290 Ridder Park Drive, MC 221
San Jose, CA 95131
FAX: (408) 453-6888

First Name

Last Name

Address

City

Zip

Phone Number

Email

School Child Attends

District

