

# Mustang Tales



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2007

## Principal's Message

It is no secret that I think Ferndale Elementary School is an excellent school. Of course, we have excellent teachers and a very supportive community. Best of all, we have terrific students at Ferndale Elementary School, and that is the result of caring, involved parents and families. Being involved with your children and making them a priority is a way of life in Ferndale, but sometimes in the hustle and bustle of making a living we can forget about the time it takes to raise our children.

I am a goal-oriented person, and I enjoy making New Year's Resolutions. The end of the year is an important time for me to reflect on the goals that I set last year. Each year, after the hectic holiday days end, I organize the bill folders, get papers together for filing our taxes, and review our household budget. I spend considerable time scouring over our monthly expenses, analyzing our utility usage, and examining our investments. This process usually provides insight about where we have been and where we are going. Using

this information, we set new financial goals and create a budget plan to achieve by the following year.

Following New Year's Day, we took advantage of the extra week off and traveled south to visit our family at Big Bear Lake. We had a terrific time together playing cards, sharing meals, playing in the snow, and just sitting around and talking. Time with family helps center us and reposition our thoughts on what is really important in life.

Long drives provide much time for thinking, and it hit me somewhere along Interstate 5 that my wife and I should be looking at our family goals as much as we do our financial goals. How are we budgeting our family time? What investments are we making in our family? What goals do we have as a family? We took the opportunity to collect input from our children, and together with our ambitions and wishes, we began a process that mirrored our annual financial planning. We purchased a large calendar for our kitchen, scheduled time together on the calendar, and set our vacation goals.

Each year many of us set New Year's Resolutions in an effort to improve on some areas of our life. Children grow up very quickly, and before we know it, 2008 will be here. This year our main resolution is to spend more time together as a family.

I am optimistic about 2007, and look forward to another wonderful year at Ferndale Elementary School. I hope that you have a wonderful new year and may all of your New Year's Resolutions be realized. Happy New Year!



## Welcome, Mr. Rigney, Our New Sixth Grade Teacher!

Hi everybody! My name is Rex Rigney, and I am very excited to be the new 6th grade teacher at Ferndale Elementary School. I was raised in Humboldt County, and I am anxious to give back to the community that was so good to me. I grew up in Scotia and went to Scotia Elementary School and Fortuna High School. I received my bachelor's degree and my teaching credential from Humboldt State University.

Throughout grade school and high

school I played a variety of sports: basketball, soccer, baseball, and swimming. However, basketball was my true love. I have actively coached 7th and 8th grade boys and girls basketball teams in Fortuna for the last five years - and in the future I hope to coach some Mustang basketball.

I'm thrilled to be a 6th grade teacher because I really enjoy teaching older kids. I have substitute taught for every single grade kindergarten through 12th, and I can honestly say that 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are my favorite to teach. I have

spent several weeks already in Mrs. Osburn's 6th grade class and I have only positive things I can say about the class. The 6th graders are a wonderful group of students with so much academic potential. Since this is a self-contained classroom, I look forward to being able to teach all subjects.

My goal is to do the best job I can teaching my new 6th grade students. I hope to be a positive influence in all my students' lives and a positive influence on the whole Ferndale community.



## Art in the Office—Emily Silvers

When I was a young girl I had the good fortune to be taken to Egypt to see the Pyramids. It was an experience that has stayed with me all of my life. I had never seen so much sand nor been so hot! We crawled up a passageway to a dark cool room at the very center of the Great Pyramid where the Pharaoh lay for thousands of years (his actual body was no longer there). Outside, the world



After that, I could never get enough of the desert, and the pyramid continued to be a powerful symbol for me of its magic and mystery.

One time I was visiting a huge sand dune in Nevada called “Sand Mountain,” and I was inspired to make a painting that embodied both the man-made mountain (the pyramid) and the nature-made mountain. First I made a flat square painting using many layers of watercolor paint on paper. Then I cut necktie-shaped wedges out from each corner, and discarded them, leaving four triangles. These I hinged together using strips of watercolor paper and glue. I mounted them on a square wood frame for support. You hardly ever see a pyramid hanging sideways like this! What do you think?

was undoubtedly going by, the sun was crossing the sky, but this cool center seemed detached and timeless.

*“You are indeed charitable when you give, and, while giving, turn your face away so that you may not see the shyness of the receiver.”*

*—Kahil Gibran*

## Student Council Holiday Cheer

FES Student Council delivered Holiday Cheer to our older friends for the 15th consecutive year on Tuesday, December 19. This annual project is enjoyed by both young and older. Student Council advisor, Lynn McCulloch, has coordinated this project since it began in 1992.



## Winter Concert

The 2006 Ferndale Unified School District Winter Concert directed by our new music teacher, Jeremy Cotton, was a great success. Students in every grade K-12 participated in this well attended evening performance. All the grades did such a wonderful job, and Mr. Cotton’s comfortable stage presence and seasonal jokes kept the audience entertained between performances. The following are a few snapshots of the night.



## Mrs. Fisk-Becker's 5th Grade Class

Our class was pleased with the generosity of our very own classmates who earned over \$200.00 to go to children in need in Humboldt County. We asked for the money to be spent on toys and clothes. We worked through Redwood Memorial Hospital, who distributed the "Lots For Tots" gift certificates to children in need.

Academically, we just finished Explorer Reports, which included many hours of research, original artwork, and many hours of computer time to type and edit. Our next venture will be the Revolutionary War, where we will learn about the Sons of Liberty, battles, and women on the battlefield. We just started reading *Ben and Me*, the story of Benjamin Franklin

as told by his good friend, Amos the mouse. We are beginning a project on Ben's Maxims (sayings) and we may be contacting you for your Input. For example, "A penny saved is a penny earned," or "Haste makes waste." We are going to ask people what these idioms mean. Be ready for us!

In Science we are studying the weather. We are planning to use the Ferndale Elementary Weather Station, which is on the roof of the school, to give us data for graphing. We have studied earthquakes, volcanoes, and tornadoes. We have also studied the skeletal system and are planning to study the remaining human body systems this spring. Look for our Science Fair after STAR tests are over.

In Math we are working on Divisibility. There are formulas you can use to figure out if a number can be divided by another number with no remainder. Some of us can do this in our heads (mental math), using digital root and knowledge of even numbers. We are also working on Prime Factorization and exponents. This is pretty tricky stuff, but we're getting it!

Many students in our class are working towards becoming members of the "100 Club." This is where a student earns 100 Accelerated Reader points in a school year. Mr. Meyers is going to take the 100 Club members to pizza in June. We are proud of our avid readers!! Thanks for reading about our busy class!



## News From Mrs. Osburn's Sixth Grade Class

The good, the bad, and the disgusting could describe recent highlights in sixth grade social studies! Students have been viewing videos and reading supplemental materials to facilitate their in-depth study of the ancient Egyptians' practice of mummification, a topic of intense fascination for sixth graders.

Along with their continued study in all required curricular areas, sixth graders voted to participate in Scholastic Book's ClassroomsCare, a program that empowers students to read and make a difference. Students read 100 books by the December 31st deadline and thereby earned a donation of 100 books to needy children. The donation by

Scholastic will be made in their honor to charitable organizations. (See [www.scholastic.com/classroomscare](http://www.scholastic.com/classroomscare) for more information on this wonderful program.)

Sixth graders have been very fortunate to have parent guest speakers bring the "outside world" to the classroom this year. Erin Wigman shared photos and stories about life in Bali and Guam. Reed Breitenstein, a Coast Guard rescue swimmer, brought in his equipment and explained, much to everyone's amazement, the specifics of his job. Coast Guard recruiter, Gary Armstrong, offered students an awareness of the vast variety of careers that are part of their future choices. In the area

of fine arts, Melody Meyers has graciously provided instruction in clay sculpture, drawing, and crafts. Many students have discovered new areas of creativity and talent thanks to her lessons.

Finally, as many of you know, Mrs. Osburn is completing her half year of teaching on January 26th. Both she and the students are excited to welcome Mr. Rex Rigney to Ferndale Elementary School. Mr. Rigney has already volunteered many days in the sixth grade and will be in the classroom the last two weeks prior to Mrs. Osburn's departure as well. Mr. Rigney and the students are both looking forward to a great second semester.

*Note from the Editor:*  
***Each month Mustang Tales is highlighting one or two grade levels. This month's focus was on 5th and 6th grade classes. Each teacher with was encouraged to submit an article with information about their classroom.***



**FERNDALE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
A 2006 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

Paul Meyers, Principal  
Ferndale Elementary School  
164 Shaw Avenue  
Ferndale, CA 95536

Phone: 707-786-5300  
Fax: 707-786-4284  
Email: [mustangtales@cox.net](mailto:mustangtales@cox.net)

*Kids are our business*



## Happy Retirement, Mrs. Osburn!

In 1974, Mrs. Osburn began teaching at Ferndale Elementary School. In her 33 years here, she has taught kindergarten, and grades 1, 2, 5, and 6. She had been an invaluable asset to our school and will be sorely missed. The countless lives she has touched is immeasurable. We wish her the very best in her retirement and hope that she may have many happy new journeys and adventures. It is with a heavy heart that we say, "Farewell, and bon voyage!"



## 2007 Boys' Basketball Teams



### 6th Grade

- 3 Grady Titus
- 5 Joey Fuller
- 10 Terris Becker
- 11 Tyler O'Reilly
- 12 Colton Valdez
- 14 Riley Foster
- 22 Hunter Vanemmerik
- 23 Manual Alvarado
- 24 Jacoby Hughes

Coach Mark Lourenzo

### 7th Grade

- 3 Travis Rye
- 12 Louis Sterback
- 13 Tyler Klem
- 14 Trey Dixon
- 15 Bryce Fields
- 20 Monet Bessingpass-Hamor
- 21 Zachary Machado
- 22 Luis Juarez
- 23 Wyatt Townsend
- 24 Kyle Lutz

Coach Mark Hamor

### 8th Grade

- 11 Dylan Cook
- 12 Frankie Griggs
- 13 Conrad Breitenstein
- 15 Nate Coppini
- 20 Jose Alvarado
- 22 Jon Losa
- 24 Matt Adams
- 25 Sonny Pedrotti

Coach Jim Walters

