



January 2010



Important Dates:

Jan. 29 – Report Cards

Feb. 10 @ 3:45 pm – School Site Council Mtg.

Feb. 10 @ 7:00 pm – School Board Meeting

Feb. 15-19 – Presidents' Week – No School



Ferndale Elementary School



Volume 7, Issue 2

Principal's Message—Bring it on... We can take it!

Boy, the last two weeks have been hectic! First, an earthquake with no damage, and then flooding. What's next? Hopefully, Mother Nature will let us recover.

While at first we thought the main building had survived the earthquake with no damage, it wasn't until after the heavy rains that we realized the extent of the damage that we sustained. In our first heavy rain after the earthquake, several new leaks in the roof appeared above Mrs. Fisk-Becker's classroom. The water caused staining and swelling in the ceiling, and several ceiling tiles were removed to prevent them from falling. Our maintenance crew found the new leaks and placed buckets strategically in the attic to hold us over until our roof can be properly repaired.

The roof on the main building is over 25 years old and has developed numerous leaks over the last few years. Last year, the district applied and received an extreme hardship grant to replace the roof on the main building, but due to the budget crisis, the state decided to provide us with only 1/5th of the funding each year for five years. These funds are designated only for the roof replacement, and are being set aside until 2014 when we have received all the funding. Until then, we are hoping to get by with temporary repairs and patches.

Last week, after heavy rains raised the water table near the surface, we discovered more earthquake-related damage to the basement floor. On Tuesday after the holiday, our staff returned to find standing water in the basement classrooms and work areas. Water was oozing from cracks in the ce-

ment floor and along the corners where the floor meets the foundation.

Water in the basement is not new. The basement floor slopes east to west and is designed with a trough on the outside edges that typically guides the water to the sump pumps located in the floor. In the past, water has typically accumulated in the west end of the building (in Mr. Rigney's room), where the lowest spot is in the basement. What was odd last week was that the water was entering from the floor on the east end of the building in the custodian office and storage room. Long-time staff members that have worked at FES for over 25 years could not remember that end of the building ever leaking water. In addition, the trough system wasn't working and the water was building up in classrooms and work areas. Quick work and ingenious thinking by our maintenance/custodial staff allowed us to continue to use several of the rooms for school. Guy McCullough and Steve Baker, used a variety of methods to remove water, including a rigged sump pump, a shop-vac, and good-old fashioned mopping.

After notifying the city manager's office, the local building inspector was called out. Arnie Kemp confirmed that although the building foundation was still sound and intact, the location of the water leaks were earthquake-related. A report was made with the city in the event that FEMA will release funding.

The following day we asked Dennis DelBiaggio of DCI Construction to come over and give us his advice. Dennis was able to find the blockage in the

trough system that allowed the water to flow toward the pumps. The blockage was caused by a piece of Styrofoam that was used to cover the trough when a support wall was installed during the 1986 earthquake retrofitting of the main building. The builder at the time forgot to remove it, and because the east end of the building hadn't leaked water since then, no one noticed that it was there. Once the Styrofoam was removed, the standing water in the rooms subsided. By Friday, the rain had stopped and the floors were ready to be dried and cleaned.

Leaking ceilings and flooding in the basement in some areas might lead to school closure, but due to the outstanding efforts of Guy McCullough and his staff and the support of our community, we hardly missed a beat. Everyone worked together to minimize the impact of these events on our educational programs. Students and staff members were flexible, cooperative, and understanding about having to temporarily move classrooms. Living on the north coast has its challenges, but it's wonderful to know that when we all work together we are able to overcome what Mother Nature throws at us and make the best of every day.





“Things don’t happen. Things are made to happen.”

—John F. Kennedy

“Change is the law of life. And those that look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

—John F. Kennedy



“In a very real sense, it will not be one man going to the moon it will be an entire nation. For all of us must work to put him there.”

—John F. Kennedy

Art in the Office—Amy Leon

Amy Leon studied art in Germany, France, and Italy with the University of Maryland for twelve years. She then returned to live in Fortuna. Currently, she is an inclusion aide at Ferndale Elementary School. Her favorite mediums are Assemblage, Collage, Watercolor, and Acrylic.



Ferndale Elementary School Invited to Apply for Distinguished School Award

Ferndale Elementary School was invited to apply for the 2010 California Distinguished School Award once again. FES received the prestigious award in 2006. The eligibility criteria has changed and only 462 schools out of approximately 6,000 elementary schools in California are eligible to apply for this recognition. Only two schools in Humboldt County were determined eligible to apply – Ferndale Elementary and Ambrosini Elementary. Schools were selected based upon their efforts to “close the achievement gap.”

The application for the award required schools to write about two signature practices that have had a positive result in closing the achievement gap. Our application focused on our GROW Program (Great Readers of the World) and our English Learner (EL) Program. Each program is described briefly below.

The GROW program was created to support young struggling readers at our school. It is

funded by the Title I program, and is our adapted version of Response to Intervention (RtI). The goal of the program is to improve student achievement in the five essential areas necessary to improve reading. The target population is students performing below the grade level standard in reading or in one or more of the foundational skills needed for reading.

Since implementing GROW, the achievement gap between white students and disadvantaged students has decreased three out of the last four years. In comparing API scores from 2008 to 2009, the API for white students increased from 818 to 836, a total of 18 points, and the API for disadvantaged students increased from 709 to 766, an increase of 57 points. The result was that the achievement gap between our white students and disadvantaged students was narrowed to 70 points.

The EL program was designed to address the student needs of the growing Hispanic popula-

tion in the community and at Ferndale Elementary School. The number of Hispanic students has increased in recent years, and in 2008-09, Hispanics made up 16.4% of our school population.

The primary goal of the EL program is to close the achievement gap between Hispanic and white students. We used the percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level in a specific subject to compare the two groups. In 2006, 8% of Hispanic students scored proficient or advanced in English-Language Arts (ELA) compared to 69% of white students, a gap of 61 points. In 2009, the achievement gap narrowed to 28 points when 38% of the Hispanic students scored proficient or advanced in ELA compared to 66% for white.

We should hear from the state in March regarding our application.

TARGET

Target and the Taking Charge of Education Program provided Ferndale Elementary School with a donation of \$43.54 in September, 2009. Here’s how it works: When parents, teachers, and other school supporters use their REDcards, Target donates up to 1% of their purchase to their designated school. To participate, you need a REDcard. To enroll in the program go to Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142.

School Safety Update

Watch Your Driving

The Ferndale Police will be monitoring cars at the corner of 5th and Shaw Avenue before and after school over the next few weeks. Reports of cars rolling through the stop signs and driving in excess of 15 miles per hour in the school zone have prompted the local police to monitor driving around the school.

Home-to-School Safety: We sometimes hear of near misses between cars and students, and each time it makes me cringe at the thought of one of



our students being injured on the way to or home from school. The two areas of most concern are at the intersections at Main

Street and Shaw Avenue and at 5th Street and Shaw Avenue. Drivers should

take extra precaution in these areas due to the number of students using these intersections. If your student uses one of these intersections to cross the street, please remind them to be safe and to remember that drivers of cars and trucks may not see them, even though they can see the vehicle.

Parking Lot Safety: Please be mindful of students in the parking lot when entering and exiting. The parking lot has become very congested, especially on Monday afternoons and rainy days. Please use the established parking areas to park your car, or park along the street. The yellow zone is a turn-around area and is designed for student pick up and drop off. Parents should not be parking in the yellow zone.

Kid-Safe Internet Sharing

Jennifer Daniels recommended a kid-safe Google search site called KidRex.com. Check it out!

Library News

Barbara Manzi donated books to the library for Christmas gift in honor of the classes that she is a Teacher's Assistant for. The books are:

- Dewy: There's a Cat in the Library in honor of Mrs. Robertson's 1st grade
- Pout Pout Fish in honor of Mrs. Robertson's 1st grade
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days in honor of Mrs. Currier's 4th grade
- Palace of Mirrors in honor of Mrs. Currier's 4th grade

- Chasing Lincoln's Killer in honor of Mrs. Adams' 6th grade
- Football Hero in honor of Mrs. Adam's 6th grade

Sharon Bonino of Ferndale recently donated two books from Greg Mortenson and David Relin's *Three Cups of Tea* story. The books are:

- Listen to the Wind, a picture book about Mortenson's first building project in Pakistan



Special thanks to Jeanie Fulton for running the book fair. We made \$1062 profit on the book fair this year.

Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest Winners

FES celebrated Red Ribbon Week Nov. 9-13. The theme for this year's event was "Celebrating Healthy Choices." Students created posters for display in our lunchroom walls. All winners won a \$5 gift certificate to Sweetness & Light.

The winners are listed below:

3rd/4th Grade

- 1st Place – Darby McWaters & Brandt Throssel
- 2nd Place – Maddie Cox
- 3rd Place – Olivia Gerving

5th/6th Grade

- 1st Place – Brandyn Geer & Will Foster
- 2nd Place – Cassidy Clancy, Lily Wagner, & Amelia Boak
- 3rd Place – Emma Gomes, Kendall McBride, & Victoria Meyer



The mind is our fundamental resource.

—John F. Kennedy

Congratulations New Student Council Officers!

President—Anna Gomes

Vice-President—Heather Cutler

Secretary—Jackson Wagner



"The pay is good and I can walk to work."

—John F. Kennedy

FES Parent Club News

Parent Club is now meeting at 6:30 every third Tuesday at Pizza Co. Come join us! Our next meeting is March 16th.

Avon Fundraiser

Parent Club Fundraiser earned \$1087 for the school garden. Cassidy Rocha was the top seller bringing in \$279.28 in sales and earning herself a camcorder. Mr. Hirsch's 3rd grade class was the top selling class by raising \$543.91 and earned a pizza party for their class.

Bulb Fundraiser

Parent Club will send home packets regarding their next fundraiser soon!



Ferndale Parent Club

eScrip Pays!

To help raise funds for the FES Parent Club with very little effort, please sign up your Safety Card with eScrip. It's safe and makes about \$85 a month for FES!

To sign up: Go to www.escrip.com
Enter our group ID# 6652709
Click and Sign Up (eScrip is a VeriSign Secure Site)
It's Free, It's Easy, It's Powerful.

Recycling Program

The FES Parent Club initiated a new money maker in 2008 — the Recycling Program at Eel River Disposal. Simply take your aluminum cans, plastic, glass or other recyclables to the Eel River Disposal and ask that the proceeds are donated to the FES Parent Club, group #112.

Paul Nicholson... the 9-1-1 Guy

Paul Nicholson from State Farm Insurance visited our school and taught our kindergartners, first and second graders how to make a 9-1-1 call. He is very informative, and talks about the differences between land lines and cell phones for 911. The students get to practice calling and interacting with a simulator. Each year Paul comes to our school and students learn how to make a 911 call. It's a free, and extremely

valuable community service that he provides for Humboldt County Schools.

The picture shows Javier Lopez from Mrs. McDonald's 1st grade class practicing with Paul Nicholson on the simulator .



Census Workers Needed!

Would you like to help your school and get paid? Consider applying for a temporary job with the 2010 Census. Local pay ranges from \$8.75-\$13.00 /hour, and mileage reimbursement at \$.55/mile.

The Census is taken every 10 years, and the data is used to fund schools, health centers & hospitals, senior programs, road improvements, emergency and disaster relief, and much more. Over \$400 billion is dis-

tributed each year based on population (and other factors) by the Federal Government. You can help us get our fair share.

You can learn more by visiting the US Census website <http://2010.census.gov>. Call the Eureka Census Office at 832-5190 and schedule an appointment to take the employment test right here in our community. You can take a practice test (highly recom-

mended!) at the US Census website.



School/Community Garden

January is always a good time to look toward the future. One of the goals that we set for this year is to build a school and community garden. Our plan is to use high school students in the Ferndale High HROP Building Trades class for construction of the green house and shed. With the help of staff and community volunteers, preliminary plans have been developed and a computerized image designed by Doug Brown Designs can be seen on the right.

We are busy writing applications for additional grant funding and organizing volunteers to assist in the spring time when we hope to get the garden operational. A grant from the Farm Bureau for \$1,000 and the proceeds from the recent Avon fundraiser by the FES Parent Club have provided the necessary seed money.

The proposed school/community garden will be an instructional garden that will be maintained by students, parents, and community volunteers. The goal is to produce school-grown produce for students to enjoy as part of their school lunch. Additional produce will be donated to the local food bank.

If you are interested in assisting us with the garden, please contact the school office at 786-5300.



Earthquake Damage

Ferndale Elementary School suffered no obvious damage during the 6.5 earthquake. Our initial damage was to papers and books that got wet when aquariums sashed out water onto the counter and floor. A

few personal items such as cups and vases were broken when they fell from desks, but that was it. All the rooms were cleaned on Sunday and were ready for school Monday morning, with the

exception of the library that had the books reshelved by volunteers on Monday.



Ferndale Elementary School

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Kids are our business



www.ferndalek12.org/fes

1st Quarter Honor Roll

5th Grade

Jesse Barrer
Kelsey Becker
Kylee Branstetter
Brandon Brazil
Cade Dixon
Hailey Dolcini
Will Evans
Will Foster
Brandyn Greer
Grayce Griggs
Avery Gritsch
Nathan Hansen
Liam Hessler
Quintin McWhorter
Mason Short
Wyatt Stoops
Evan Uutela
Rachel Wilma

6th Grade

Blaine Becksted
Amelia Boak
Evan Broberg
Kade Chambers
Cassidy Clancy
Andrew Cutler
Owen Durrett
Kalynn Farley
Emma Gomes
Mason Gossien
Dane Gritsch
Kendall McBride
Victoria Meyer
Taylor Miranda
Lacey Nichols
Lee O'Reilly
Sarah Richardson
Cassidy Rocha
Juan Sanchez
Lane Sotomayor
Coleman Sturdevant
Grant Van Emmerik
Andres Villalvazo
Lily Wagner

7th Grade

Irene Alvarado
Madilyn Adams
Makhi Bessingpas-Hamor
Trevor Brockoff
Andrew East
Corabelle Esmailian
Kenton Goldsby
Janelle Guggenbickler
Sasha Lekas
Shilo Martella
Abbigail Petersen
Chase Richardson
Phoebe Ruggles
Oliver Stoops
Julie Urbach

8th Grade

Maci Branstetter
Kyle Chambers
Heather Cutler
Jake Dixon
Caroline Evans
Lennon Frost
Anna Gomes
Andrea Guggenbickler
Ani Gurnee
Lacey Herrera
Russ Jackson
Nicole Lannom
Kendra Losa
Jared Meyer
Hayden Osterman
Sadie Rayl
Isaak Townsend
Annelise Vollmer
Nicole Vollmer
Madison Walpole