

MUSTANG TALES



MARCH 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Challenging. This word sums up how things have been for the last month or so, and probably how things will be for the next several months. In addition to the recent board action and the pending recall of three board members, the district is facing severe budget cuts that will reduce services to students and ultimately result in teacher and classified staff lay-offs. Any cut to the education budget hurts kids, but I assure you that we will do everything we can to limit the impact of these cuts on our students. When making fiscal decisions, we will strive to continue to offer a high-quality educational program for all students and to maintain the fiscal stability of the district now and in the future.

As you may already know, the state budget was signed in late February, and it included both a mid-year reduction and reduced funding on 2009-10. The combined budget equates approximately to an average of a 20% cut to school district budgets.

PARENTS CAN HELP

Just as you might do with your family budget when money is tight, we are looking at ways to increase revenue and to cut spending. Since the revenue our school receives is determined by student attendance, having your student attend school every day is both educationally and financially important. Even attending for part of a day provides the district with full funding.

Increasing enrollment will help

Since about 80% of our district budget is payroll, cuts to staffing most certainly will occur. However, the exact fiscal impact on our district is still being determined, and the final decision on staffing will likely occur in May.



In preparation for a reduction in the workforce, the state requires that we notify any certificated staff (teachers) by March 15 if their position could be eliminated or reduced. This notification is known as "pink slips." Several teachers will receive these dreaded "pink slips" this year, but that doesn't necessarily mean that their

position will be eliminated. There are still many tough decisions to make regarding our district's budget next year, and much work is yet to be done before the school board signs off on it. For example, the state has retracted many of the requirements on previously "restricted" funds in the district budget, and these newly available dollars could help supplement the shortages to the general fund and reduce many proposed lay-offs.

The next few months will be a critical time for our district, and we will need the support of the entire school community to work through our challenges. Now is the time to set aside any differences and to work together for our kid's sake.

Together, we will succeed.

looking at reducing or eliminating non-educational field trips usually taken at the end of the school year.

Another way that parents can help us is to ensure that their student has adequate school supplies. We spend several thousands of dollars each year purchasing instructional supplies such as lined paper, pencils, glue sticks, etc. With help from parents, we could greatly reduce this expenditure.

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 8 – Foggy Bottoms Milk Run & Walk, 1:30 p.m.
- March 9 – FES Spelling Bee, 1:00 p.m.
- March 11 – School Board Mtg, 7:00 p.m.
- March 12 – Eel River Spelling Bee, 6:00 p.m.
- March 17 – Parent Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- March 18 – Site Council Meeting, 3:45 p.m.
- March 20 – Spring Clean Up & BBQ
- March 26 – Open House, 6:30; 3rd Grade Play, 7:30 p.m.
- March 27 – End of Qtr. 3
- April 2 – Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- April 6-10 – Parent Conferences; 1:30 Dismissal
- April 13-17 – Spring Break

ART IN THE OFFICE—PAT CAHILL

Art in the Office – Pat Cahill
Feb. 2009(see photo)

While teaching the middle grades at Ferndale Elementary School, I loved it one hundred percent. Now I have a new challenge – painting.

After retiring from Ferndale Elementary School in 1998, one of my goals was to take some art courses at College of the Redwoods. I found the world of watercolors, painting various subjects that intrigue me – be it color, subject matter or design.

Painting for my own pleasure gives me a fresh perspective of looking at people, places, and objects. Being a painter of representational art, I hope to pique an interest or spark a memory in the mind of the viewer.

The continual challenges of painting keep me inspired. Composing each painting reflects my unique interpretation and understanding of the physical world. My inspirations come from many sources. I treasure being able to record my travels, paint animals, and capture the

everyday beauty that surrounds us. Nature offers us such glorious, ever-changing masterpieces for us to enjoy. A painting captures these in time.

I am a member of several art organizations. My work has been shown in several local locations – but most is at the Ferndale Arts Gallery.



Apple Blossoms, by Pat Cahill

NEW STUDENT ASB REPRESENTATIVES

Teacher

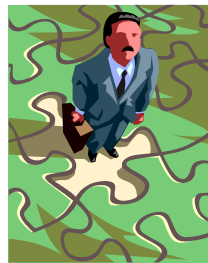
Mrs. Bugenig
Mr. Hirsch
Mrs. Adams
Mrs. Currier
Mrs. Fisk-Becker
Mrs. Busick
Ms. Dudal
Mr. Rigney
Mr. Haller

Representatives

Abigail Ambrosini & Chuck Roback
Lindsey Luster & Weston Beddow
Vanessa Alvarado & Grayce Griggs
Nathan Hansen & Blaine Becksted
Jacey Ragan & Andrew Cutler
Kyle Burns & Brooke-Ann Busick
Madison Parker & Layne Stephens
Nicole Lannom & Anna Evans
Riley Foster & Heather Cutler

Officers

President	Layne Stephens
Vice-President	Anna Evans
Secretary	Grayce Griggs
Treasurer	Andrew Cutler



“In a moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing; the next best thing is the wrong thing; and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”

– Theodore Roosevelt

JR. HIGH PLANS FOR COLLEGE

A representative of the Student Academic Services Outreach Program at Humboldt State University spoke with our 8th grade students on February 10th, 2009. Students received information on post-secondary educational options, including community

college and 4-year university options



available. This service is provided because students who begin planning their educational path at an early age are much more successful in fulfilling their dreams.

For more information about preparing for college, please contact our school counselor, Lydia DeZordo.



2009 GATE ACADEMY AT HSU

FIRST ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:
Sasha Lekas, Emma Gomes,
Hailey Dolcini, Chase
Richardson, Amelia Boak,
Kenton Goldsby, Mason
Short, Will Foster

SECOND ROW LEFT TO
RIGHT: Madilyn Adams,
Phoebe Ruggles, Corabelle
Esmailian, Anna Gomes, Lee
O'Reilly, Evan Broberg, Lane
Sotomayor

THIRD ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:
Tristen Sano, Layne
Stephens, Catherine Boers,
Alex Jones, Oliver Stoops,
Miss Amy Eastman (Teacher)



AR 100 CLUB

Student Name	Grade	AR Points	Student Name	Grade	AR Points
Alex Jones	6	310.9	Nicole Vollmer	7	104.8
Lily Wagner	5	287.1	Lane Sotomayor	5	101.6
Jacey Ragan	5	177.0	Vanessa Brower	7	85.9
Evan Broberg	5	151.3	Andrea Guggenbickler	7	84.0
Kenton Goldsby	6	140.4	Julie Urbach	6	80.2
Madison Parker	8	138.9	Mitchell Grandy	7	80.0
Kade Chambers	5	133.4	David Sams	8	74.1
Oliver Stoops	6	127.4	Olivia Gerving	2	73.2
Miriam Thompson	7	127.4	Adam Forsell	6	71.1
Corabelle Esmailian	6	117.7	Cassidy Clancy	5	70.3
Julia Kirby	8	112.1			

Students at FES are encouraged to read, read, read! Students that earn over 100 Accelerated Reader (AR) points will earn a chance to have "Pizza with the Principal" in June. Listed on the left are the students with 70 or more AR points as of February, 2009.

LIBRARY NEWS

Dr. Seuss' Birthday

The Ferndale Kiwanis Club provided readers for our primary classes, on Read Across America Day, March 2nd. Each year we celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by having special activities throughout the school and in classrooms. Former Ferndale School Superintendent Alan Brainerd recruited the Kiwanis Club members, Mich-

ele Shshani, Kim Hindley, and Stacey Edgmon to be guest readers on this special day.

Book Fair:
April 6-10th
During Parent
Conference Week
Benefit for
Reading Express

Firefighter Presentation



Brock McCulloch & Eric Madden of the U.S. Forest Service recently did a presentation for Jr. High students on their experiences last summer fighting wild fires. The young men showed pictures, demonstrated equipment used and shared M.R.E.'s.

Mrs. Cory is pictured here with her former student, Brock McCulloch

We're on the Web!

Www.fernalek12.net/fes

FERNDALE ELEMENTARY

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Congratulations to three FES students who were selected to perform in the **54th All County Music Festival** held on February 28th at the Damon Gym at Fortuna High School — **Terris Becker, Catherine Boers, and Kelsey Meyers.**

Music teacher **Jeremy Cotton** selected these three eighth graders to participate in this annual event. These students performed with over 200 other young musicians from grades 6-12 from Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.



K I D S A R E O U R B U S I N E S S !

PARENT CLUB FUNDRAISERS

The FES Parent Club typically hosts two fundraisers each year: A candle sale in November and Jerry's T's Catalogue Sales in March. The proceeds from these fundraisers have been used to provide many "extras" at FES, such as, the Predator Bird Assembly, Parent Love & Logic Classes, and wireless microphones in the gym, to name a few.

BOOK FAIR

This year, the Parent Club will also host a Book Fair in April during Parent Conference Week. The proceeds from this event will

supplement the Kiwanis-Sponsored Reading Express Program. More information about the Book Fair will be available later in March. If you are willing to help in any way with the Book Fair, please give Jeannie Fulton a call at: 725-2448.

JERRY'S T'S

The Parent Club's spring fundraiser catalog from Jerry's T's was sent home last Friday. Please take a look at it to see if there are any items that might be useful to you or your relatives.

eSCRIP

If you would like to contribute to the Parent Club, please consider registering your Safeway card with eScrip at www.escrip.com. Our school ID number is: 6652709.

FES Recycling Program

When you take your aluminum cans, plastic, glass or other recyclable items in to Eel River Disposal, you can donate your proceeds to the Ferndale Elementary School Parent Club. Simply give them our name, or our group number, #112, and your small donation will help in a big way!

SCIENCE FAIR

The following 7th graders were selected to represent Ferndale Elementary School at the Humboldt County, Doris Niles Science Fair the week of March 16 – 20th:

- Ani Gurnee
- Kendra Losa
- Nicole Lannom
- Andrea Guggenbickler
- Heather Cutler
- Maci Branstetter
- Jared Meyer
- Madison Walpole
- Russ Jackson
- Caroline Evans