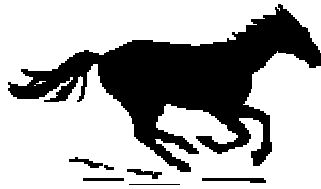


Mustang Tales



FERNDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Volume 7, Issue 3

March 2010

Principal's Message—Aloha!

My family and I spent a wonderful week in Hawaii in February. It was the first time for the kids, and 19 years since my wife and I honeymooned there in 1991. Our family spent the week in Waikiki and swam, snorkeled, and walked around the beaches. It was one of the best vacations ever.

One of the highlights was visiting the Polynesian Cultural Center, and the spectacular live performance in the evening. The performance was called, "Ha - Breath of Life." It defined the meaning of the Hawaiian word "ha" which translates to "breath of life." The performance told the story of the Polynesian cul-

ture and how it began with fire that created the islands, how that fire was transferred into its people to create love, and from that love came children to share the breath of life.

From the story came the understanding of the Hawaiian greeting, Aloha! Alo in Hawaiian means "to share," and ha means "breath of life." Thus, the greeting, Aloha!, means "to share the breath of life."

Imagine what life would be like if we embraced this greeting and truly invited others to share the breath of life with us. Imagine a world where we cared more about others than ourselves, where we lived

life and celebrated our existence, our love, and our passion.

Life is short, and the kids aren't getting any younger. If you haven't planned a week-long vacation with the family in the next six months, get started planning. Whether you go camping or take a trip to a tropical paradise, you will be glad that you did. It will be good for you, and it will be good for your family. Go and share the breath of life with your loved ones.

Aloha!



FES to Have a Reduction in Teachers

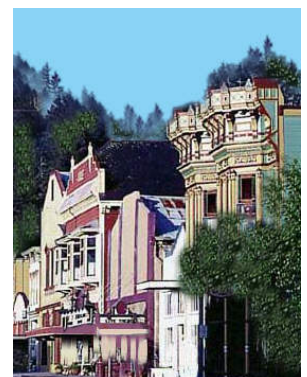
Due to the state budget crisis, the district will need to make several budget reductions to balance our budget for the 2010-2011 school year. At the special board meeting on February 24th, the School Board approved the administration's budget reduction recommendations.

The approved budget includes the elimination of 2.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers: a .1 FTE teacher position for GATE, a .5 FTE teaching position for Title I, and an increase in class size in grades K-3, that will result in the elimination of two full-time teaching positions.

Other cuts in the approved budget were reductions in athletics and supplies, and a \$.50 increase in school lunch prices. Community fundraising to support school programs are being discussed. For questions regarding school budget cuts, contact Paul Meyers at 786-5300.

Important Dates

- MARCH 11—EEL RIVER VALLEY SPELLING BEE
- MARCH 15—DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL VISITATION
- MARCH 16—PARENT CLUB MEETING @ PIZZA CO. 6:30PM
- MARCH 17—SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL, 3:45PM
- MARCH 26—SCHOOL BBQ AND CLEAN UP DAY
- MARCH 26—FAMILY FRIENDSHIP NIGHT, TURF ROOM
- MARCH 28—MARCH FOR HAITI, 11-4PM
- APRIL 1—OPEN HOUSE AND 3RD GRADE PLAY



"He who angers you, controls you."

—Anonymous

Mustang Tales

Art in the Office—by Emily Silver



“View from the Road to Angel Lake” - By Emily Silver

I consider myself a “desert rat” and I love painting outdoors in the desert. The scene before me is brilliant light, atmosphere and earth, and watercolor seems the perfect medium to communicate a moment in time. The bright white of the paper is the light, and the colors are formed from pigments made from the chemicals of the earth.

The only moisture (beyond the water bucket) forms the spectacular clouds and, if it falls, usually evaporates before it gets to the ground. The paint dries so fast, you’d better know what you’re doing or be fearless and accept whatever happens.

Spelling Bee Winners to Compete March 11th

Students at Ferndale Elementary School held their annual school Spelling Bee on Friday, February 26. Top spellers in each classroom met in the gym Friday morning to determine the two students at each level that would represent our school in the upcoming Eel River Spelling Bee on March 11th. In grades 4th through 6th, Jeremy Peifer earned 1st place, Hailey Dolcini took 2nd

place, and Kylee Branstetter claimed 3rd place. In the Junior High, Oliver Stoops outlasted the competition and won 1st place in a tough fought contest with Alex Jones who took 2nd place. Earning 3rd place was Hannah Pichulo.

The Eel River Spelling Bee will be held at the Mary Hanly Theatre at Fortuna High School on March 11, and it

will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. The event will start with the 4th-6th grade competition that will last an hour or so, followed by the junior high competition. The Spelling Bee typically ends around 8:30 p.m.

Families and friends are encouraged to attend to support our students. The event is free to all.



2010 Spelling Bee Jr. High Winners: L to R—Alex Jones, Principal Paul Meyers, Oliver Stoops, and Hannah Pichulo



2010 Spelling Bee Winners, Grades 4-6: L to R—Jeremy Peifer, Principal Paul Meyers, Kylee Branstetter, and Hailey Dolcini

Student Participation in Foggy Bottoms Race Growing!

As a result of a new Running Club, Ferndale Elementary School has the highest level of student involvement ever in the March 14th historic Foggy Bottoms Run in Ferndale. Representing FES will be 64 students and 20 adult helpers.

An after school running club started less than two years ago already has almost one-third of the students at FES participating. Physical Education teacher Trevor Christiansen and Resource teacher Jackie Cory started the club last year to promote fitness in youth,

and the response from the students has been amazing. There are over 100 club members (out of 332 students in our school) that have joined. The running club meets every Wednesday after school from 3:10 to 3:50. Students run laps around the playground and for each mile they complete they earn a "foot" that can be placed on a beaded chain and worn around school with pride. Many parents volunteer to assist the running club and have fun running with their kids.

For more information, please contact Coach Trev or Jackie Cory at 786-5300.



To look up and not down,
To look forward and not back,
To look out and not in, and
To lend a hand
—Harry Wadsworth

“March for Haiti”

The Ferndale High School ASB and the Ferndale Elementary School Student Council are co-sponsoring a fundraiser to help build a prosthetic lab where artificial limbs can assist the many amputees from the Haiti earthquake. They have organized a “March for Haiti” walk-a-thon at the Ferndale High School track on Sunday, March 28th, from

11:00-4:00. They are hoping to raise approximately \$3,000 to assist the efforts of local Humboldt County Doctors that are working to build a prosthetic lab in Haiti. Kerilyn Ambrosini, ASB President, is leading the efforts, with the help of Christiana Lekas, Anna Gomes, and Heather Cutler.



KNOWING IS
NOT ENOUGH;
WE MUST APPLY.
WILLING IS NOT
ENOUGH.; WE
MUST DO.

—GOETHE

Mrs. Houx: Speech Therapist and Cattlewoman

The Humboldt County Cattlewomen donated the book "Why Cowboys Sleep with their Boots On" to all of the elementary schools in the area. Pictured to the right is FES Speech Therapist and HCCW member Patty Houx as she read the book to Mrs. Robertson's first grade class before presenting it to Mrs. McCulloch for library circulation.



I am only one, but I
am one. I can't do
everything, but I
can do something.
—Edward Hale

Mustang Tales

“Triangle of Life” Earthquake Survival Method Disputed by Red Cross



For accurate earthquake information, go to: <http://earthquakecountry.info/dropcoverholdon/>

Several parents contacted me after reading an email from David Coop, a self-described expert on earthquakes, describing what he termed the “Triangle of Life” method for earthquake survival. This email began in 2004 and continues to resurface after a large earthquake. Unfortunately, you can’t believe everything you read. This email has been refuted by the American Red Cross as incorrect, and has been labeled as an Urban Myth.

According to Red Cross community disaster education

manager Rocky Lopes, author Doug Copp's earthquake survival suggestions don't apply in the United States because they're based on observations made in Turkey, where engineering and construction standards are different. "Much research in the United States has confirmed that 'Drop, Cover, and Hold On!' has saved lives in the United States," writes Lopes. "Engineering researchers have demonstrated that very few buildings collapse or 'pancake' in the U.S. as they might do in other countries."

Other experts concur, even to the point of suggesting that

some of Copp's advice could endanger people's lives rather than save them. "Some of the things he recommends are absolutely dangerous, like getting out of your car and lying down next to the car," UCLA public health expert Kimberley Shoaf told Knight Ridder Newspapers in November 2004. A former deputy director of the California Office of Emergency Services, Mark Ghilarducci, agreed that "duck, cover and hold on" remains the best overall strategy for survival during an earthquake.

Source: <http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/>

Spirit Points

THE NOBLEST
REVENGE IS TO
FORGIVE.

Each Friday students in grades 3-8 are encouraged to show their school spirit by wearing school colors (green and white or red and white) to school. Student representatives count the number of students in their class wearing school colors. If 80% or more of the students in a class come to school wearing clothing with school colors, the homeroom is awarded a spirit point. In addition, if the teacher is wearing school colors, the class gets a second spirit point. The class at the end of the semester with the most spirit points wins an ice cream party.

Earning Spirit Points

As a general rule, to be counted for wearing school colors, at least half of your body should show off one or more of the following colors: green, red, or white. It should be clear that the student arrived at school prepared to show their school spirit. Students and staff may also earn spirit points by wearing school apparel such as black or gray sweatshirts with the school name on it.

The following items do not count as wearing school colors:

- Articles of clothing that contain trace amounts of green, red, or white material
- Hats
- Shoes or shoe laces
- Under garments
- Jewelry, nails, hair clips, or other accessories
- Wearing another student's clothes
- Face paint or hair color

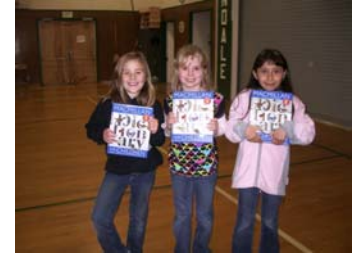


You have enemies? Good.
You stood up for something.
—Churchill



Ferndale Rotary Delivers Dictionaries to Third Graders

Each year, for as long as anyone can remember, the Ferndale Rotary Club has donated beautiful, hard-cover children's dictionaries to each student in the third grade at Ferndale Elementary School. The students cherish their dictionaries and spend hours looking through them, learning new words or just reading the captions under the pictures. The picture on the right shows the excitement the students have when they receive their new dictionary.



One smile begins a friendship
One touch can show you care
One heart can know what is true
One life can make a difference

Dr. Seuss/Read Across America Day—March 2, 2010

Read Across America is celebrated each year on Theodor Geisel's (Dr. Seuss) birthday. Read Across America is sponsored by the National Education Association and is an annual reading motivation and awareness program. To en-



courage reading, teachers often try to find community members to read a Dr. Seuss book for their students. This year, Mrs. McDonald asked Officer Lindsey Frank of the Ferndale Police Department to come in and read Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham to her 1st grade students.



Distinguished School Validation Visit March 15th

Administrators from around Humboldt County will be visiting Ferndale Elementary School on March 15th to validate the school's 2010 application to become a California Distinguished School. After visiting, the Site Validation Team will make a recommendation to the California Department of Education to

be or not be selected as a 2010 Distinguished School.

A schedule is being developed to enable the visiting administrators to conduct formal and informal interviews with various groups including administrative, classified and certificated staff, parents, students, and school

board members.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell will announce the names of the winning schools in a statewide press release in April.



Kids Are Our Business.

FERNDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Fax: 707-786-4284
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We're on the web!
www.ferndalek12.org/fes

New Social Work Intern Provides Needed Counseling

We are very fortunate to have a school social work intern to work with our students and families. Kristin Perkins is Lydia DeZordo's new intern, and she will be training here from March through June. She is a graduate student at Humboldt State University, in the social work department. Kristin is currently preparing to enter the field of school social work. Kristin has lived in Ferndale since 2005, and will graduate from Humboldt State this May.

2nd Quarter Honor Roll



Do more than exist;
live. Do more than
hear; listen. Do more
than listen; under-
stand. Do more than
talk; say something.
-Rhoades

5th Grade

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

6th Grade

Blaine Becksted
Amelia Book
Evan Broberg
Kade Chambers
Cassidy Clancy
Abby Cox
Andrew Cutler
Kalynn Farley
Spencer Fulton
Emma Gomes
Mason Gossien
Enrique Lopez
Bradly Martin
Kendall McBride
Victoria Meyer
Taylor Miranda
Lacey Nichols
Lee O'Reilly
Carson Parker
Lucciano Pichulo
Sarah Richardson
Cassidy Rocha

Juan Sanchez

Lane Sotomayor
Coleman Sturdevant
Grant Van Emmerik
Andres Villalvazo
Lily Wagner

7th Grade

Madilyn Adams
Makhi Bessingpas-Hamor
Kyle Burns
Corabelle Esmailian
Adam Forsell
Kenton Goldsby
Janelle Guggenbickler
Sasha Lekas
Shilo Martella
Abbigail Petersen
Hunter Rayl
Chase Richardson
Phoebe Ruggles
Oliver Stoops
Julie Urbach

8th Grade

Maci Branstetter
Kyle Chambers
Heather Cutler
Taryn DeMille
Jake Dixon
Peyton Durrett
Caroline Evans
Lennon Frost
Anna Gomes
Mitchell Grandy
Andrea Guggenbickler
Ani Gurnee
Lacey Herrera
Russ Jackson
Nicole Lannom
Kendra Losa
Hayden Osterman
Sadie Rayl
Jennifer Tovar
Isaak Townsend
Nicole Vollmer
Madison Walpole